Herlock
SPACE PIRATE CAPTAIN

宇宙海賊キャプテン
ハーロック

2
闇髏の旗の下に

松本零士

2
宇宙海賊
キャプテンハーロック

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SPACE PIRATE CAPTAIN

L.Matsumoto
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9784253103817

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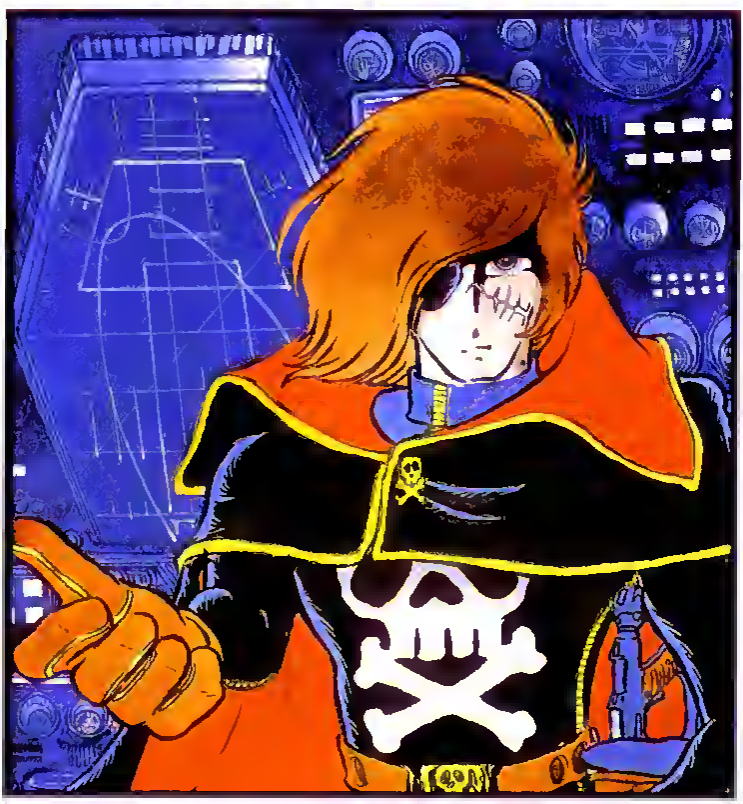

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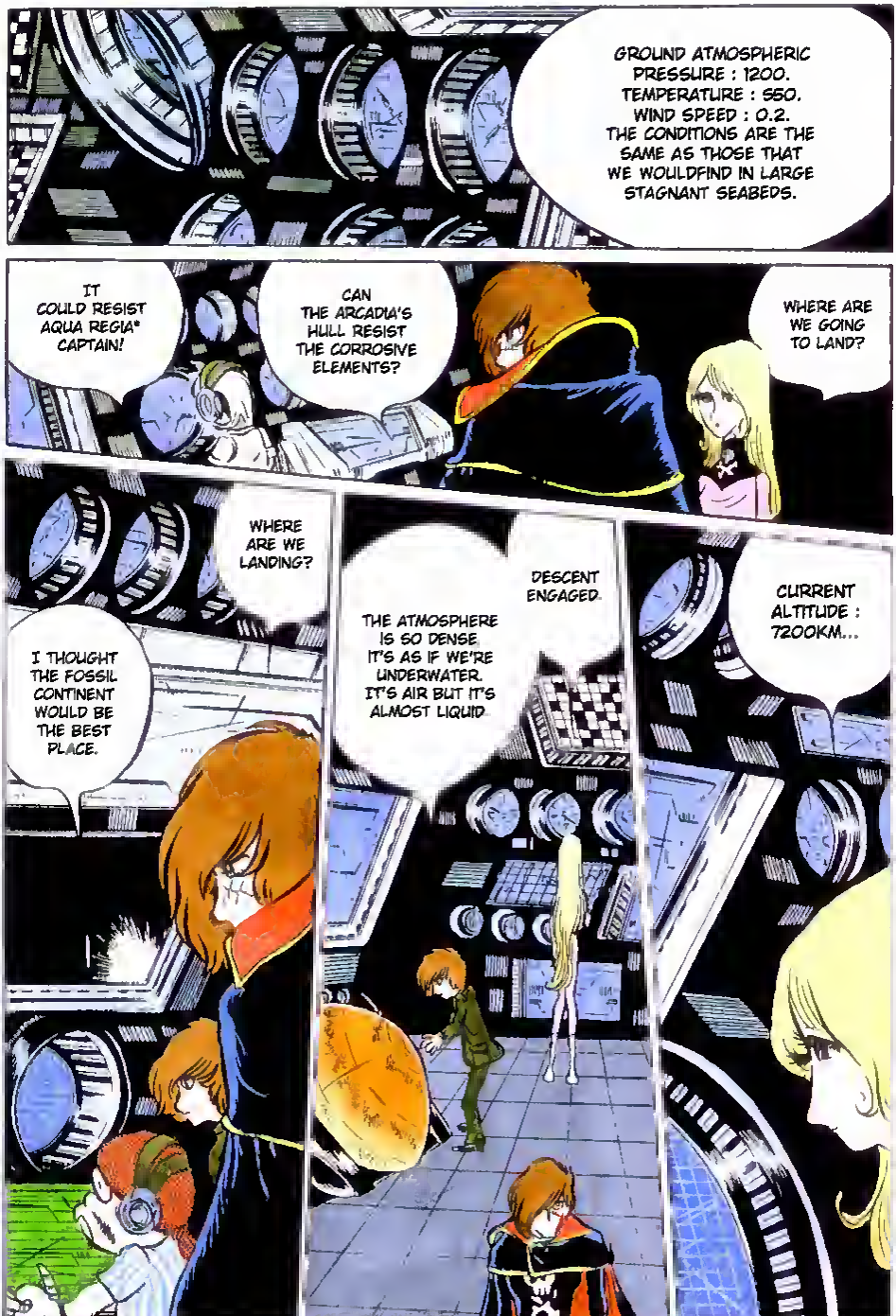
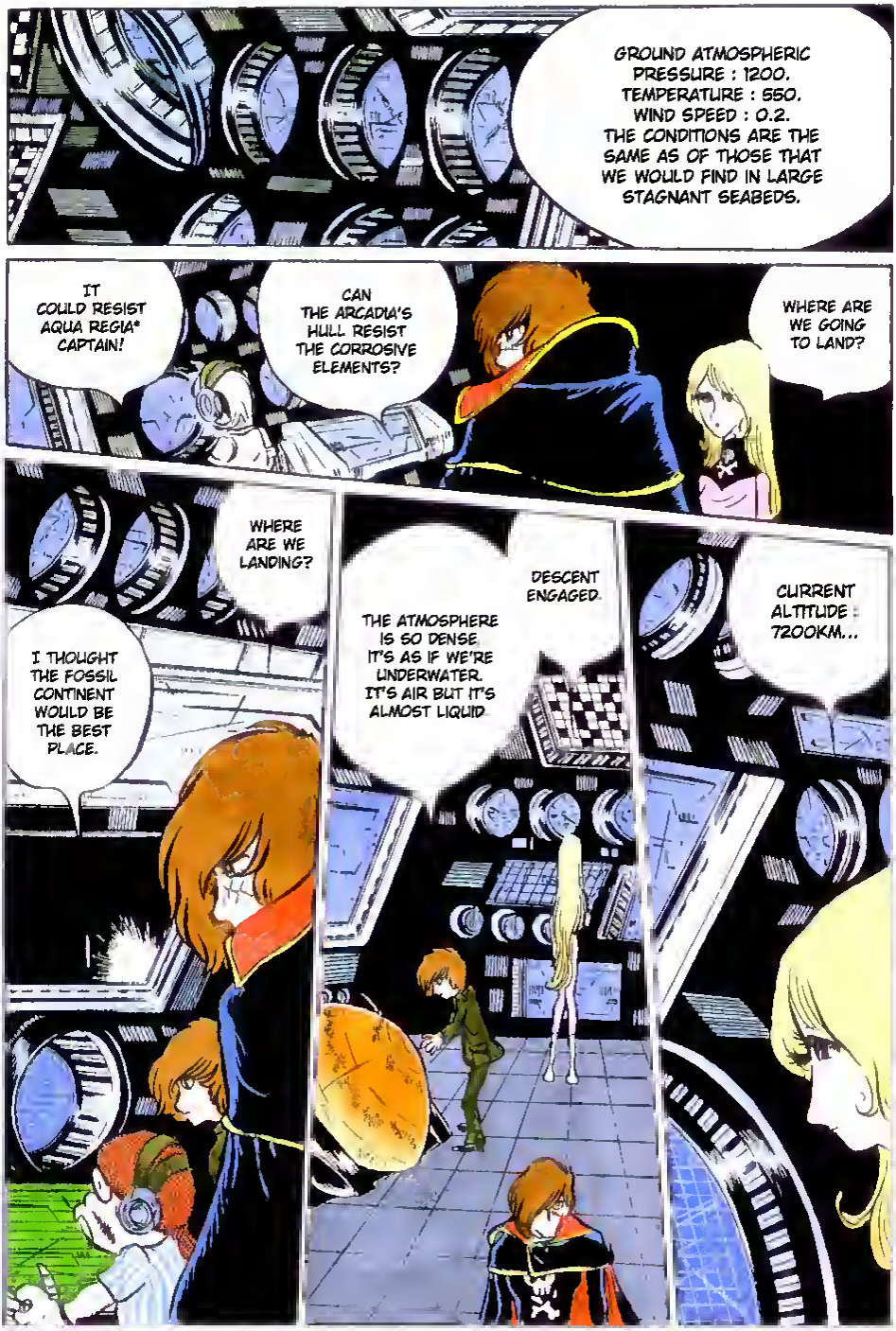
髑髏(わ れ)の旗の下に

松本零士


GROUND ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE : 1200.
TEMPERATURE : 550.
WIND SPEED : 0.2.
THE CONDITIONS ARE THE SAME AS THOSE THAT WE WOULDFIND IN LARGE STAGNANT SEABEDS.
IT COULD RESIST AQUA REGIA* CAPTAIN!
CAN THE ARCADIA'S HULL RESIST THE CORROSIVE ELEMENTS?
WHERE ARE WE GOING TO LAND?
WHERE ARE WE LANDING?
I THOUGHT THE FOSSIL CONTINENT WOULD BE THE BEST PLACE.
DESCENT ENGAGED.
THE ATMOSPHERE IS SO DENSE IT'S AS IF WE'RE UNDERWATER. IT'S AIR BUT IT'S ALMOST LIQUID.
CURRENT ALTITUDE : 7200KM...

NOTE AQUA REGIAL - MIXTURE OF NITRIC ACID AND HYDROCHLORIC ACID. IT CAN DISSOLVE GOLD AND PLATINUM.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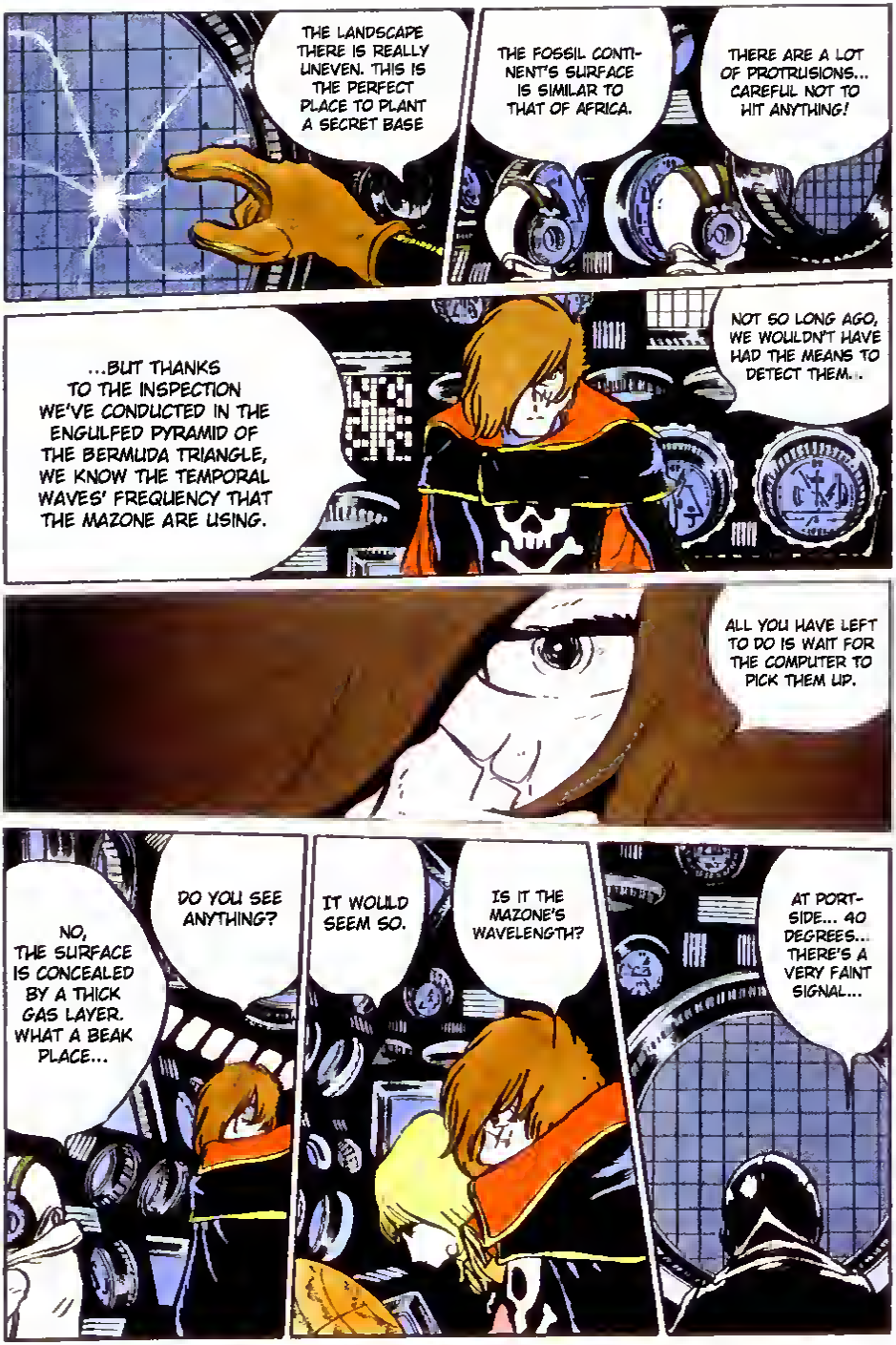
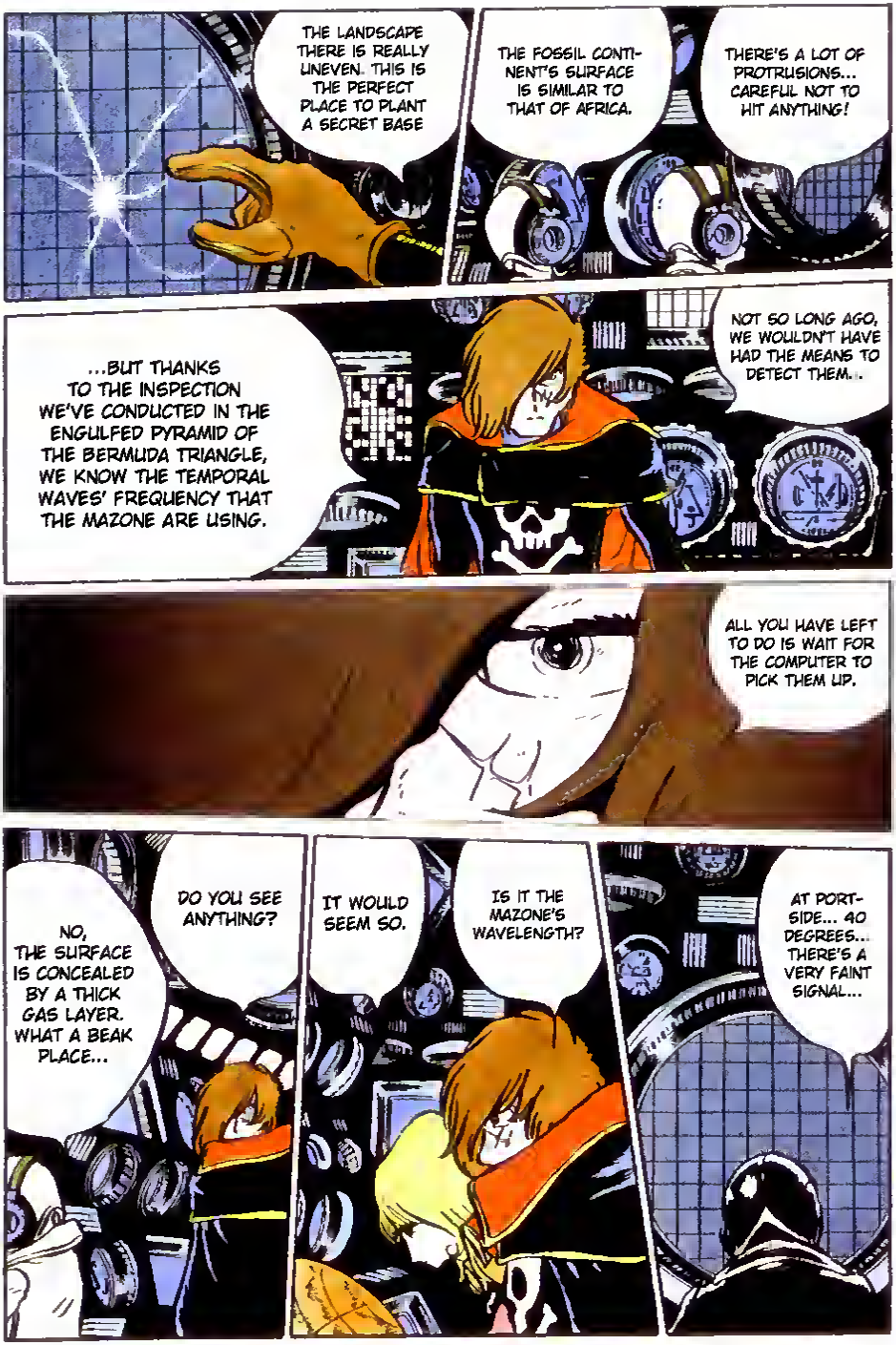

THE LANDSCAPE THERE IS REALLY UNEVEN. THIS IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO PLANT A SECRET BASE
THE FOSSIL CONTINENT'S SURFACE IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF AFRICA.
THERE ARE A LOT OF PROTRUSIONS... CAREFUL NOT TO HIT ANYTHING!
...BUT THANKS TO THE INSPECTION WE'VE CONDUCTED IN THE ENGULFED PYRAMID OF THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE, WE KNOW THE TEMPORAL WAVES' FREQUENCY THAT THE MAZONE ARE USING.
NOT SO LONG AGO, WE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THE MEANS TO DETECT THEM...
ALL YOU HAVE LEFT TO DO IS WAIT FOR THE COMPUTER TO PICK THEM UP.
NO, THE SURFACE IS CONCEALED BY A THICK GAS LAYER. WHAT A BEAK PLACE...
DO YOU SEE ANYTHING?
IT WOULD SEEM SO.
IS IT THE MAZONE'S WAVELENGTH?
AT PORT-SIDE... 40 DEGREES... THERE'S A VERY FAINT SIGNAL...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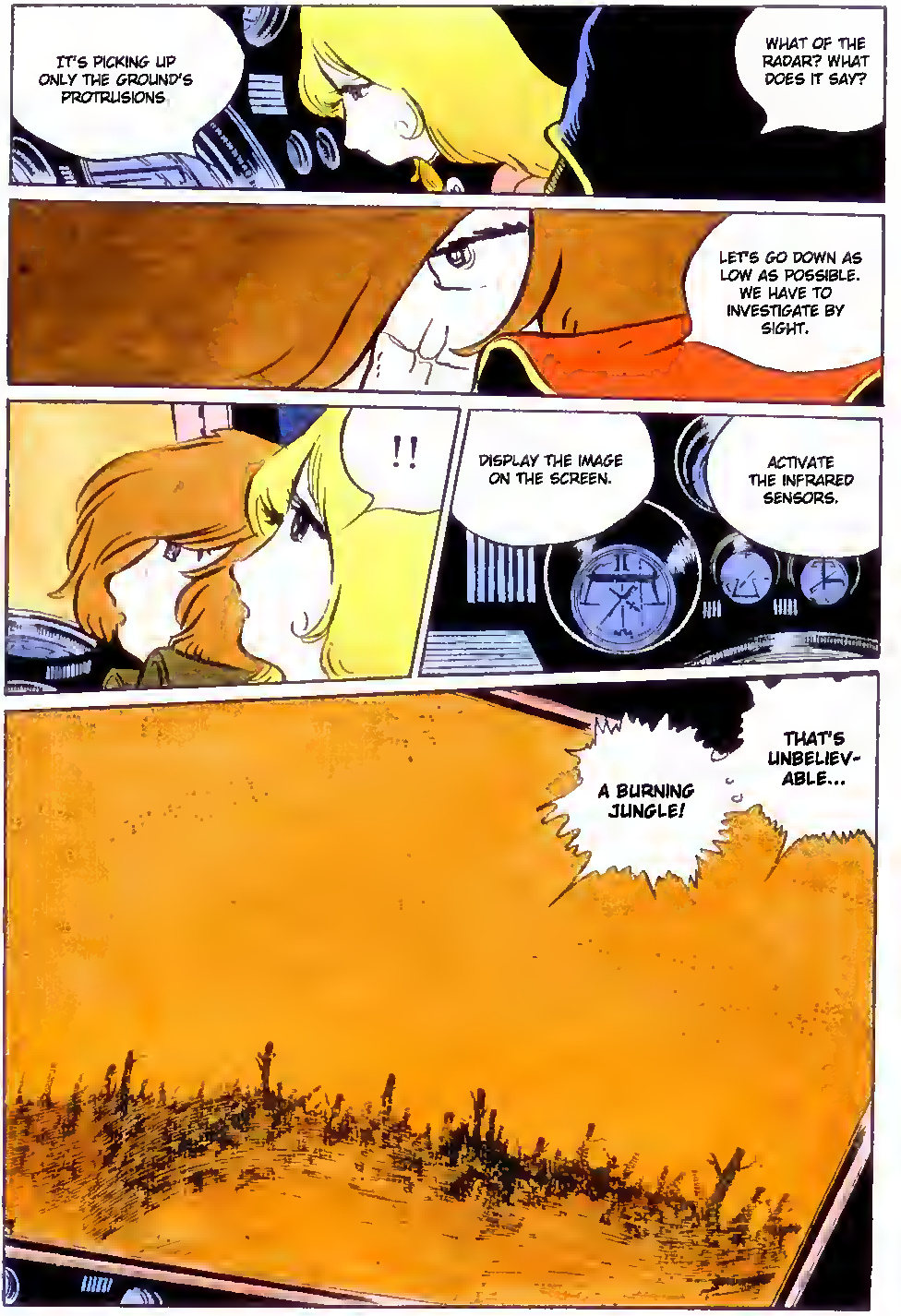
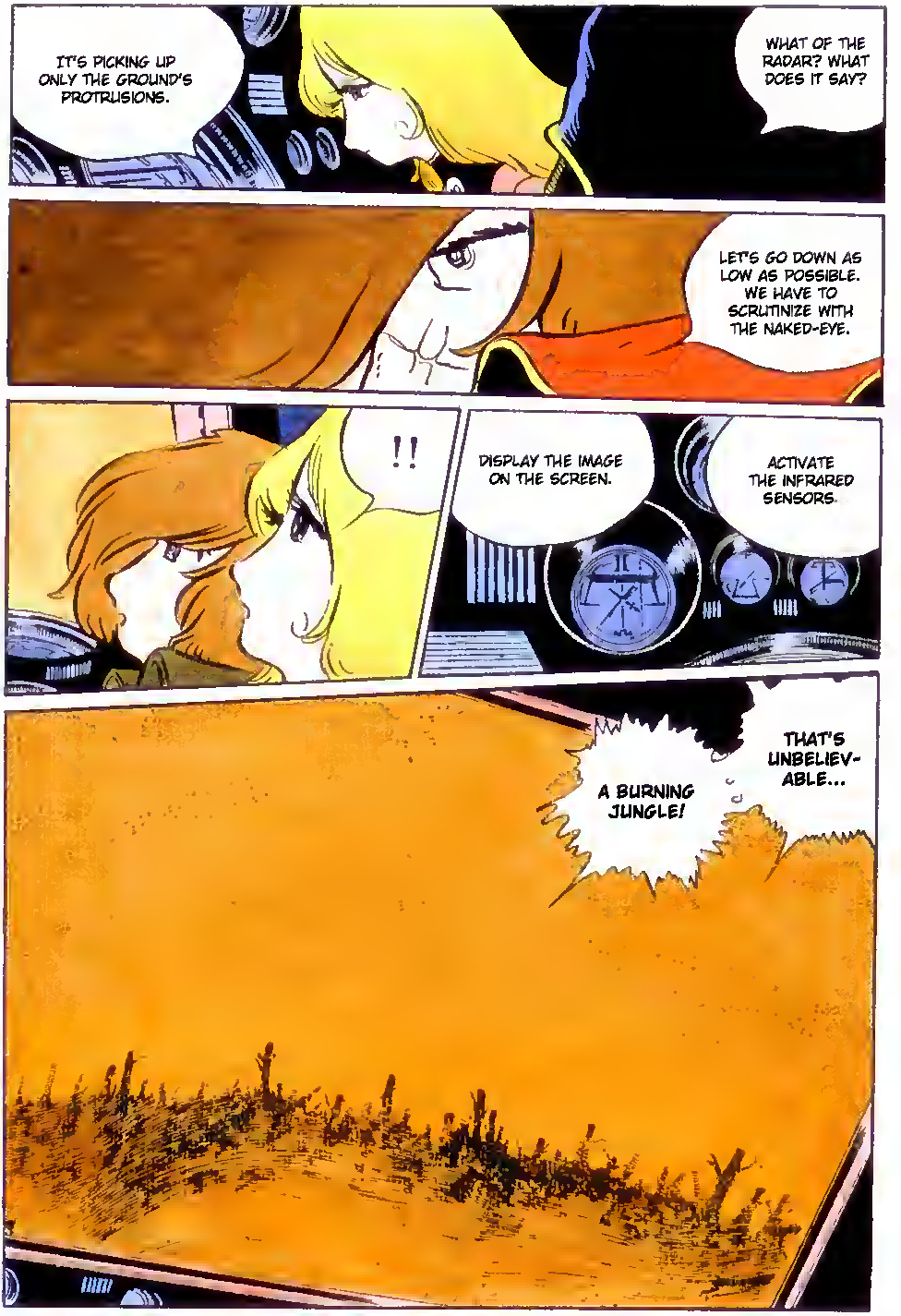

IT'S PICKING UP ONLY THE GROUND'S PROTRUSIONS.
WHAT OF THE RADAR? WHAT DOES IT SAY?
LET'S GO DOWN AS LOW AS POSSIBLE. WE HAVE TO INVESTIGATE BY SIGHT.
!!
DISPLAY THE IMAGE ON THE SCREEN.
ACTIVATE THE INFRARED SENSORS.
A BURNING JUNGLE!
THAT'S UNBELIEV-ABLE...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WHAT OF THE RADAR? WHAT DOES IT SAY?
LET'S GO DOWN AS LOW AS POSSIBLE. WE HAVE TO SCRUTINIZE WITH THE NAKED-EYE.
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DISPLAY THE IMAGE ON THE SCREEN.
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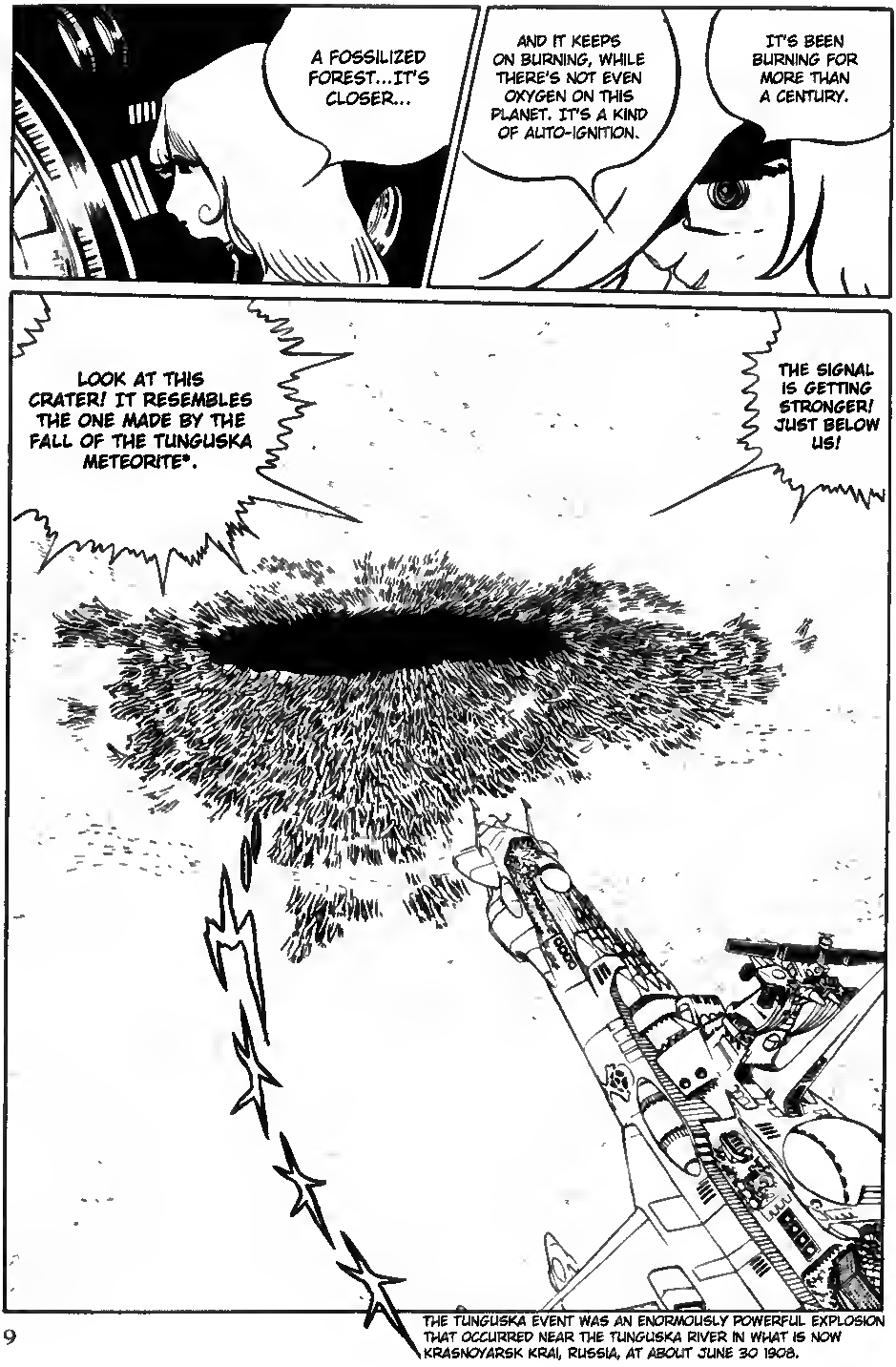
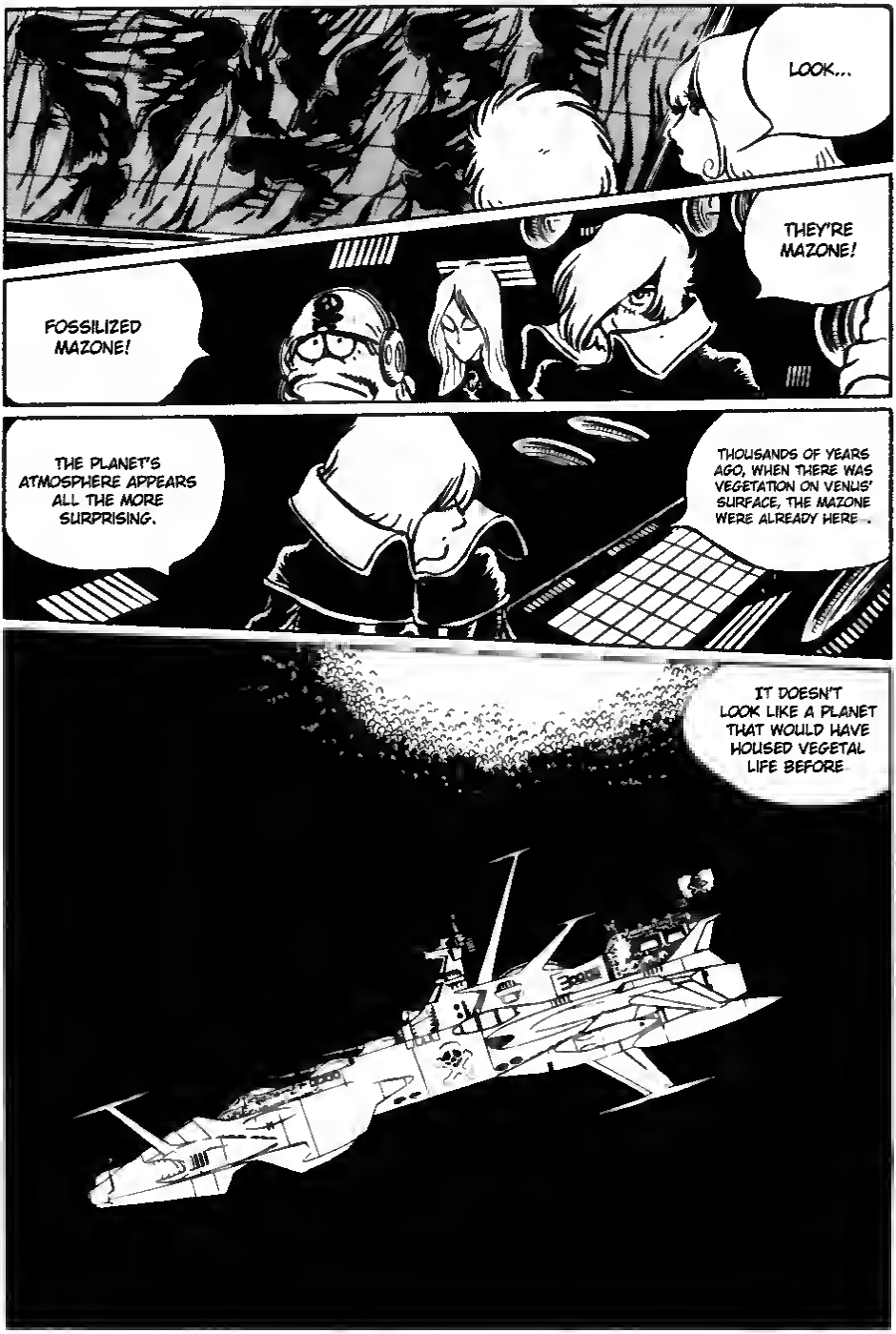
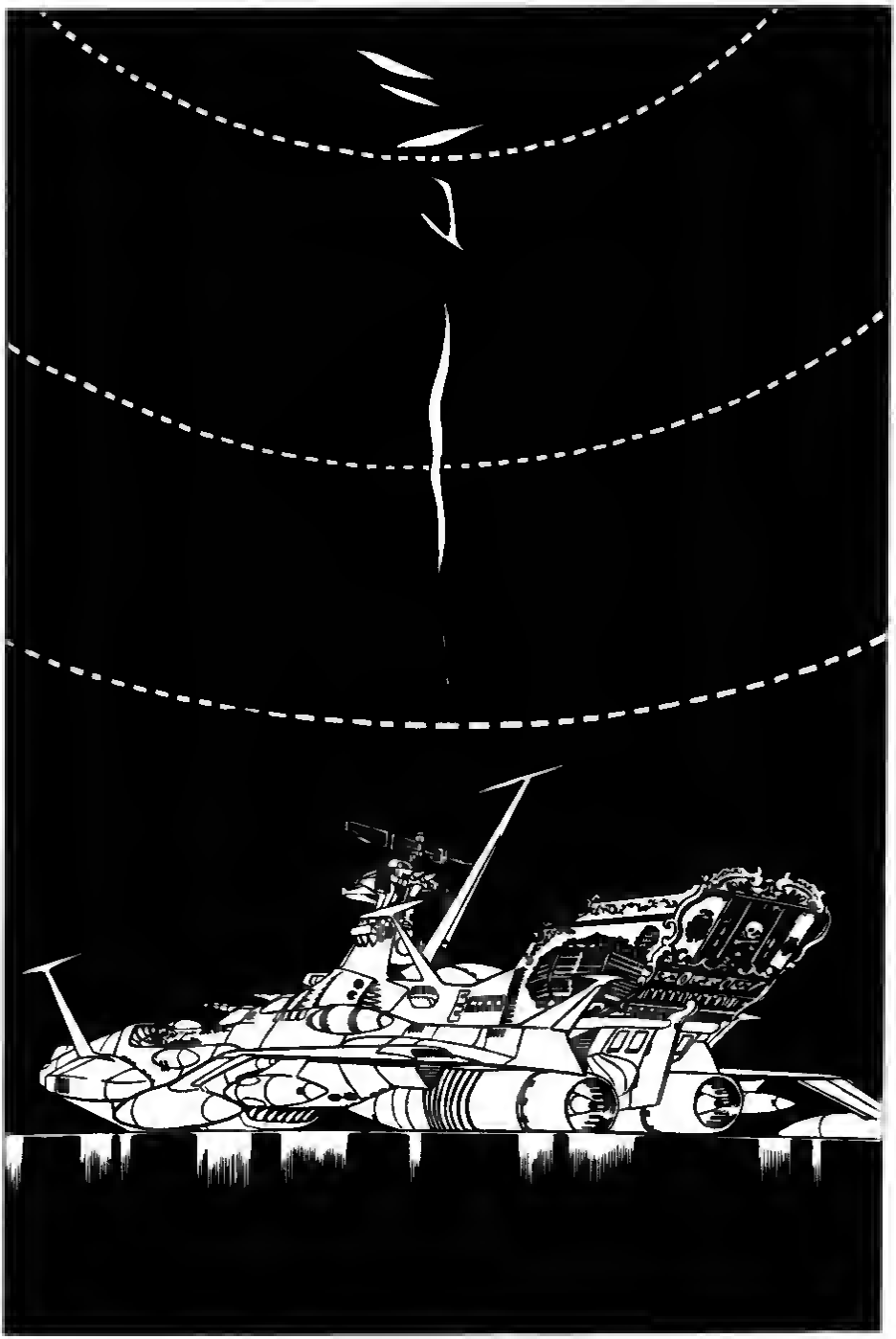
THAT'S UNBELIEV-ABLE...


A FOSSILIZED FOREST...IT'S CLOSER...
AND IT KEEPS ON BURNING, WHILE THERE'S NOT EVEN OXYGEN ON THIS PLANET. IT'S A KIND OF AUTO-IGNITION.
IT'S BEEN BURNING FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY.
LOOK AT THIS CRATER! IT RESEMBLES THE ONE MADE BY THE FALL OF THE TUNGUSKA METEORITE*.
THE SIGNAL IS GETTING STRONGER! JUST BELOW US!

THE TUNGUSKA EVENT WAS AN ENORMOUSLY POWERFUL EXPLOSION THAT OCCURRED NEAR THE TUNGUSKA RIVER IN WHAT IS NOW KRASNOYARSK KRAI, RUSSIA, AT ABOUT JUNE 30 1908.

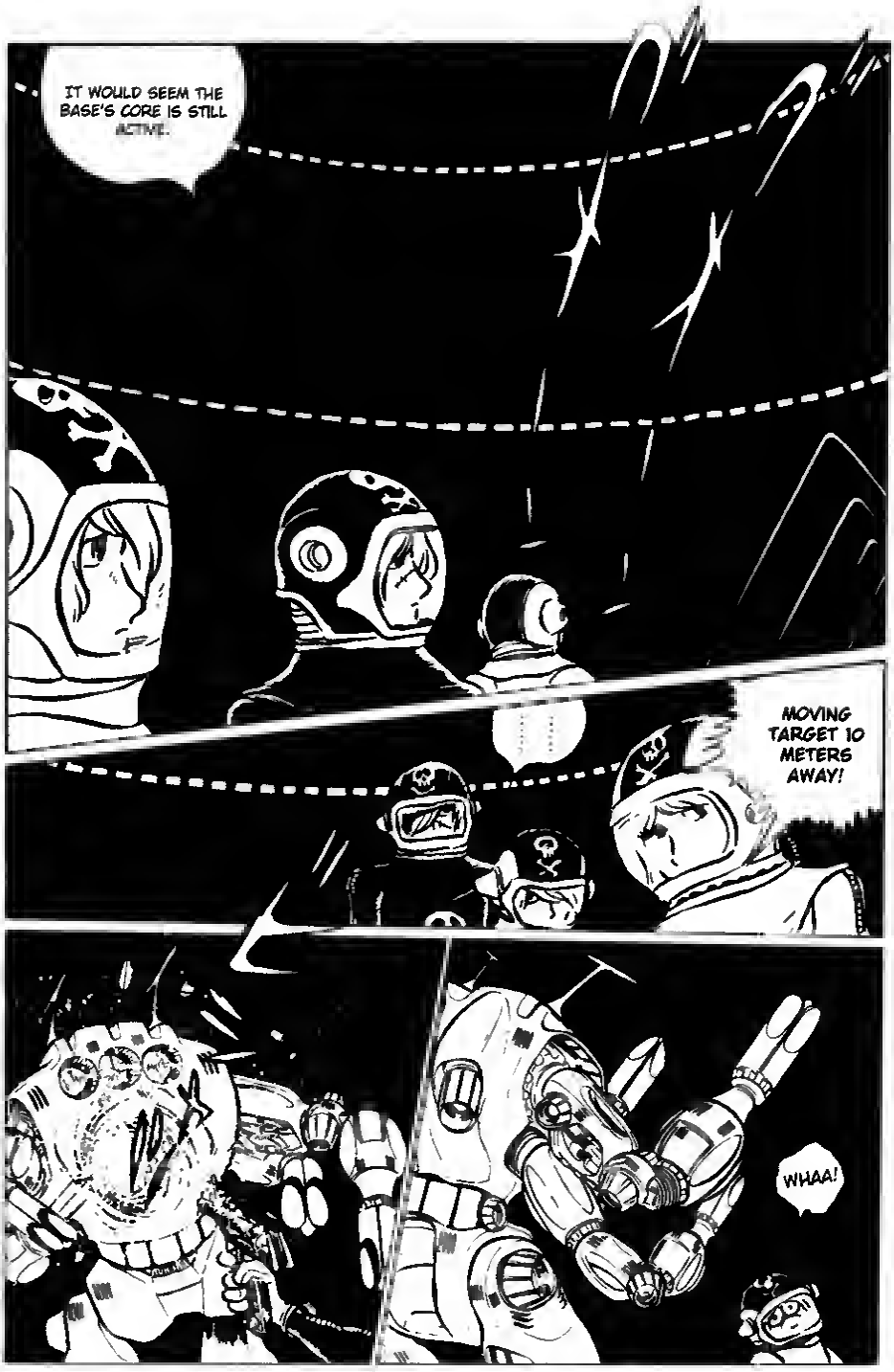
TO DO SO THEY'D NEED TO BE ALIVE!
BUT IF THE MAZONE'S BASE IS LOCATED IN THIS CRATER, THEY'LL OPEN FIRE!
LET'S GET CLOSER!
EXCEPT FOR SOME SIGNALS' BROADCASTING, OUR INSTRUMENTS AREN'T DETECTING ANYTHING PECULIAR.
YOU'RE RIGHT, NO LIFESIGN IS BEING DETECTED.
FORWARD! WE'RE DIVING!

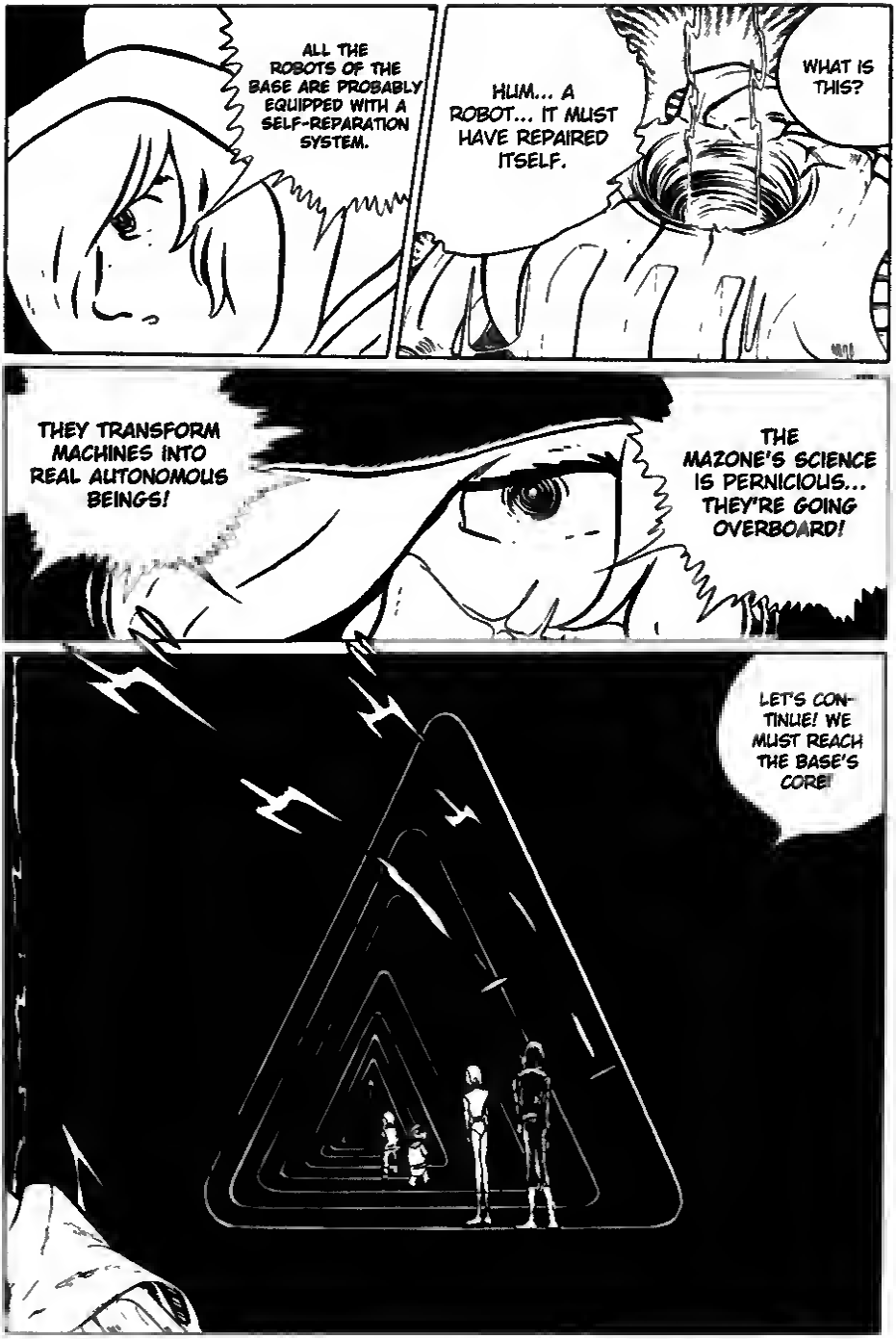

LOOK...
THEY'RE MAZONE!
FOSSILIZED MAZONE!
THE PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE APPEARS ALL THE MORE SURPRISING.
THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, WHEN THERE WAS VEGETATION ON VENUS' SURFACE, THE MAZONE WERE ALREADY HERE.
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A PLANET THAT WOULD HAVE HOUSED VEGETAL LIFE BEFORE

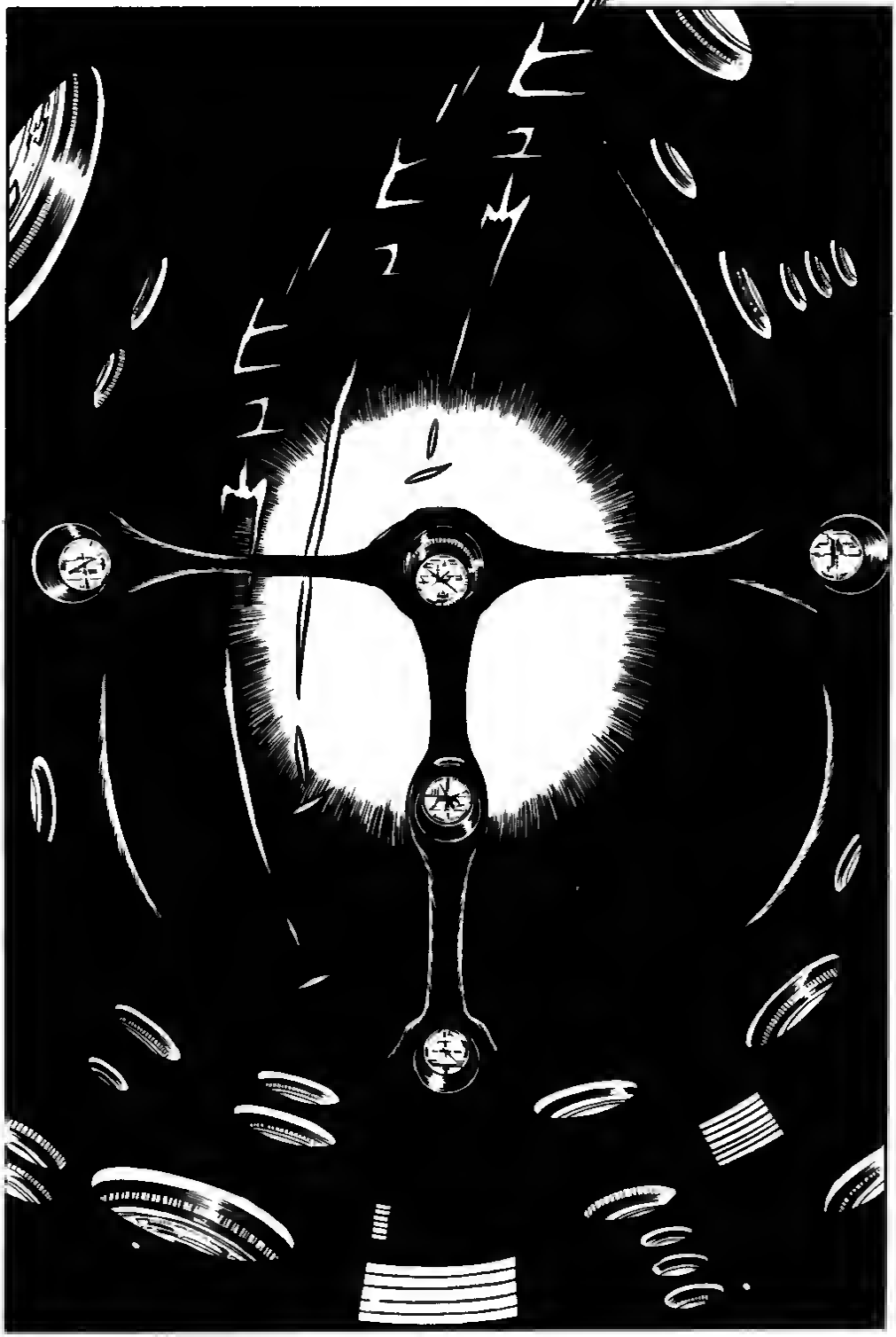


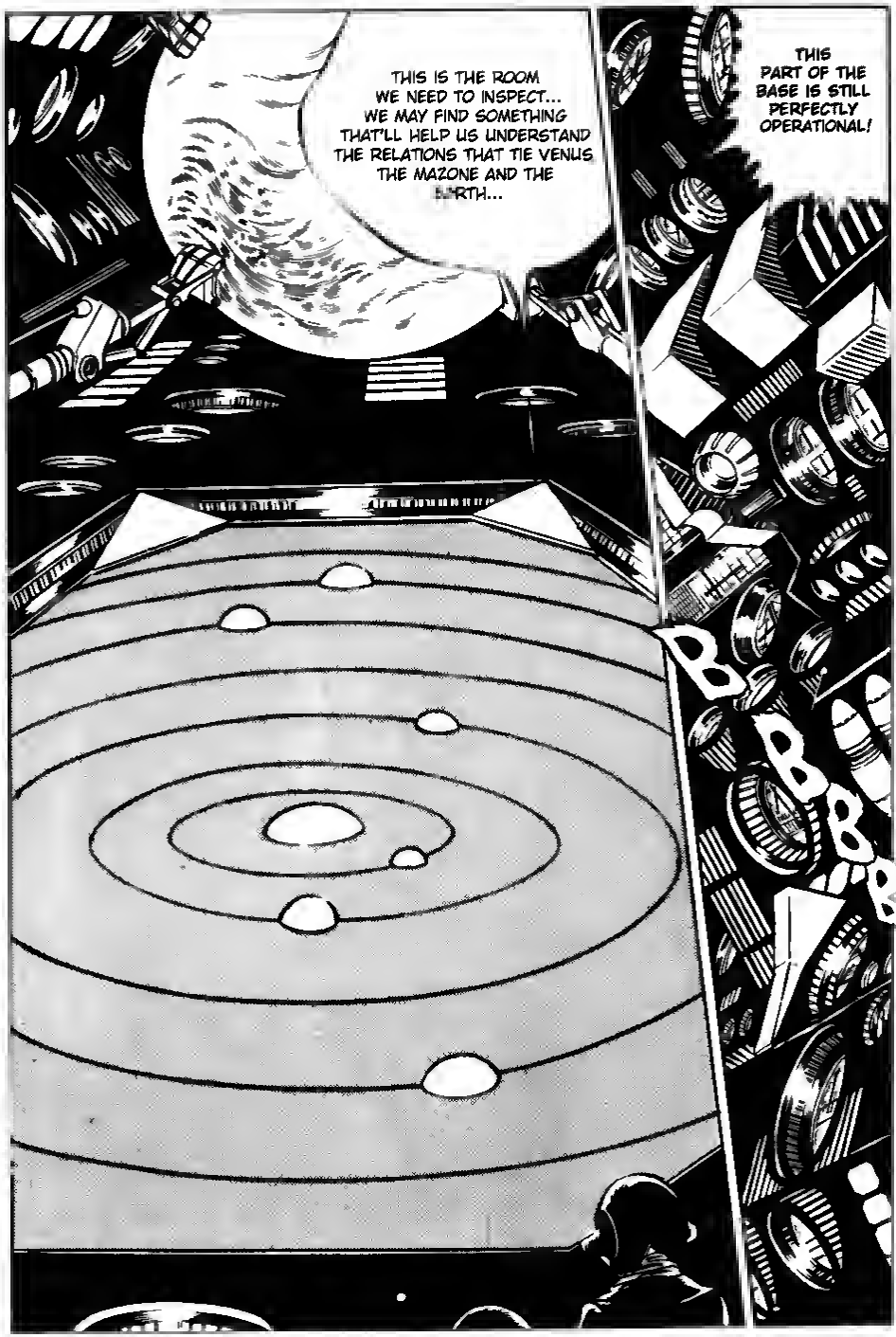
A CANNON BATTERY! EVEN THE MAZONE'S EQUIPMENTS ARE HALF DISINTEGRATED BY THE CORROSION
WHAT A SAUNA! I FEEL LIKE I'M ENTERING ONE OF THOSE OLD STEAM ROOMS...
IT'S FORTUNATE WE HAVE OUR ISOTHERMAL SUITS!
I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE.
LET'S GO.

THIS BASE HAS COMPLETELY FALLEN APART.
THE PATTERNS ON THE WALLS LOOK SO MUCH LIKE THOSE OF THE MAYA AND INCA RELICS.

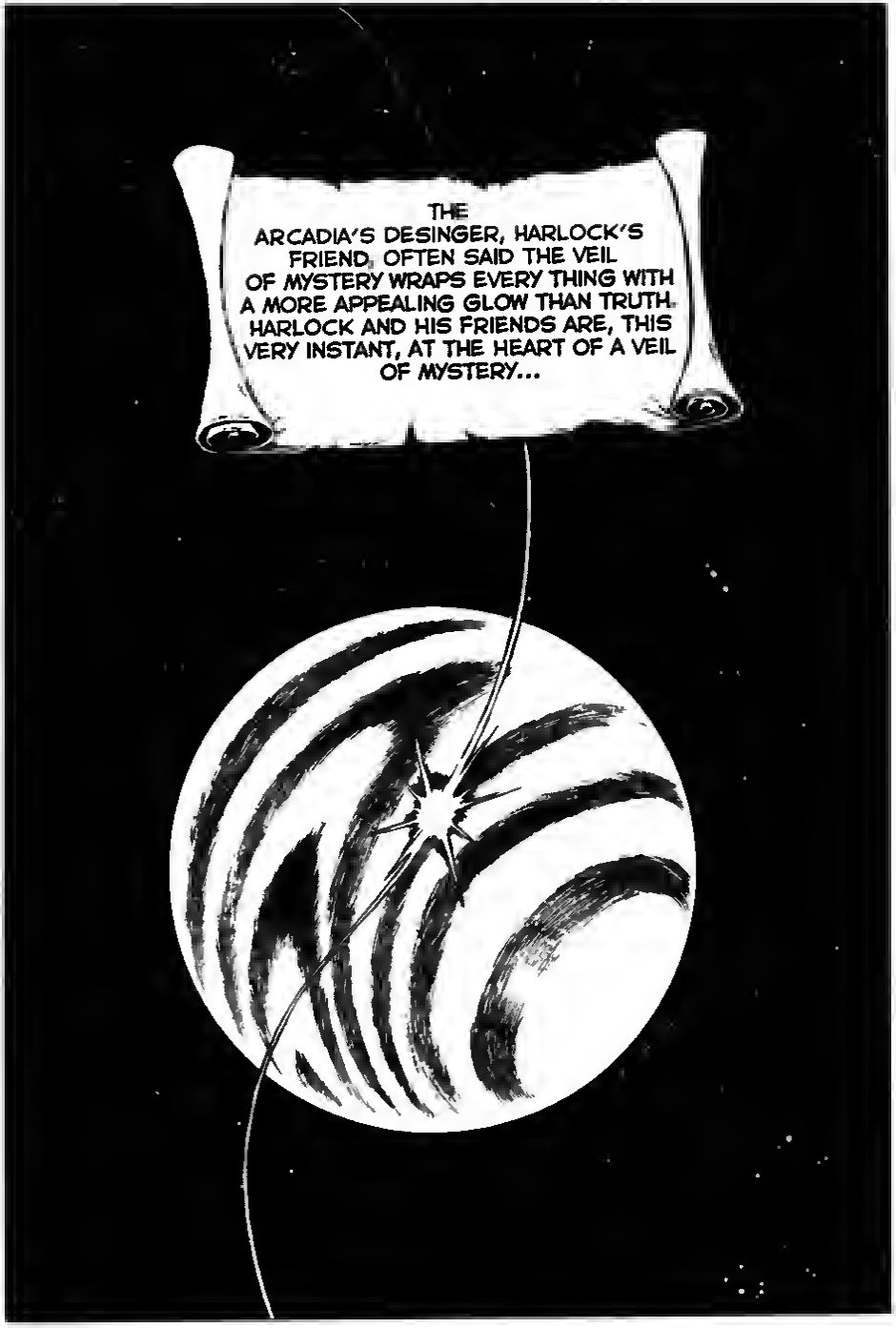

IT WOULD SEEM THE BASE'S CORE IS STILL ACTIVE.
MOVING TARGET 10 METERS AWAY!
WHAA!


ALL THE ROBOTS OF THE BASE ARE PROBABLY EQUIPPED WITH A SELF-REPARATION SYSTEM.
HUM... A ROBOT... IT MUST HAVE REPAIRED ITSELF.
WHAT IS THIS?
THEY TRANSFORM MACHINES INTO REAL AUTONOMOUS BEINGS!
THE MAZONE'S SCIENCE IS PERNICIOUS... THEY'RE GOING OVERBOARD!
LET'S CONTINUE! WE MUST REACH THE BASE'S CORE!

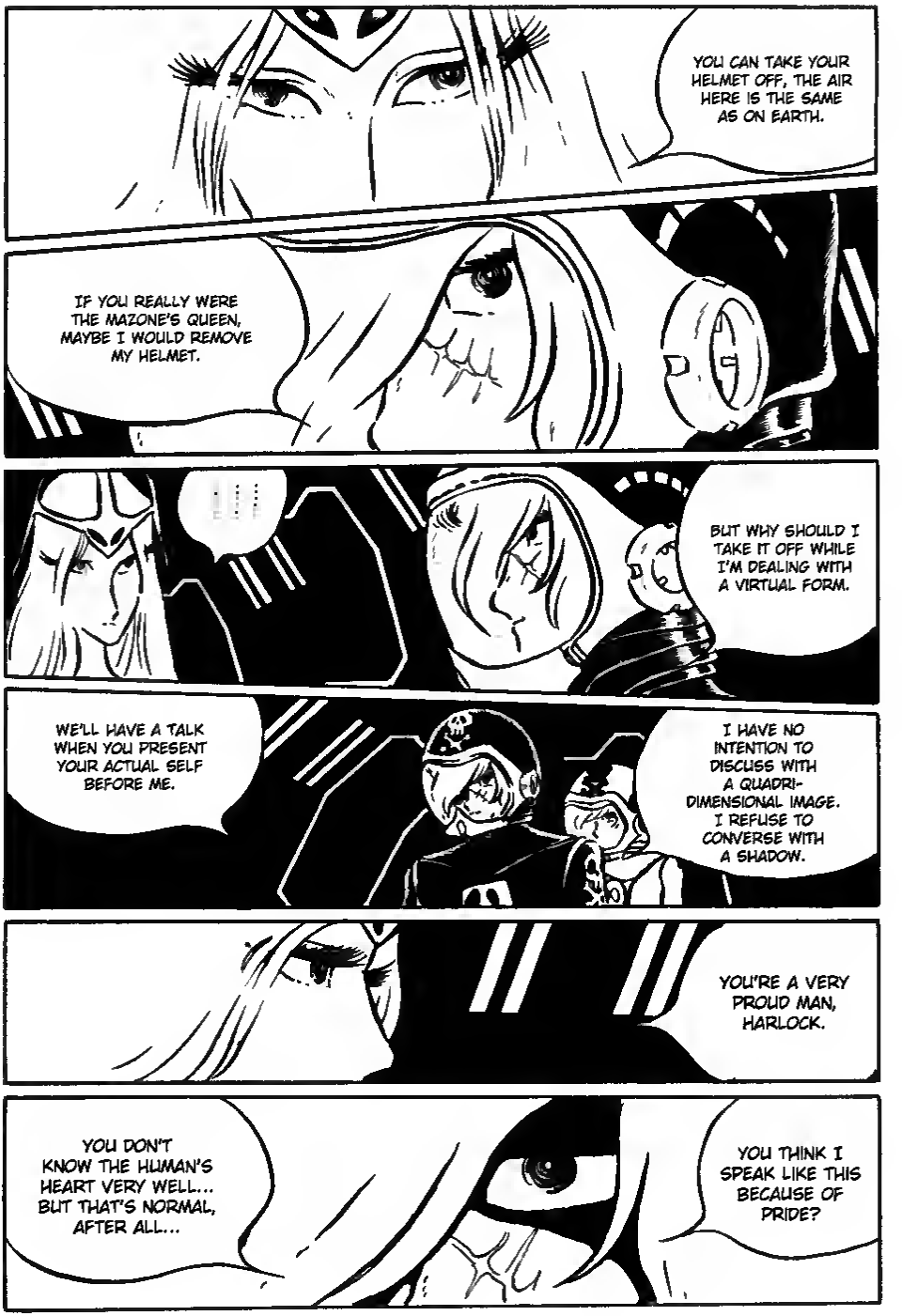


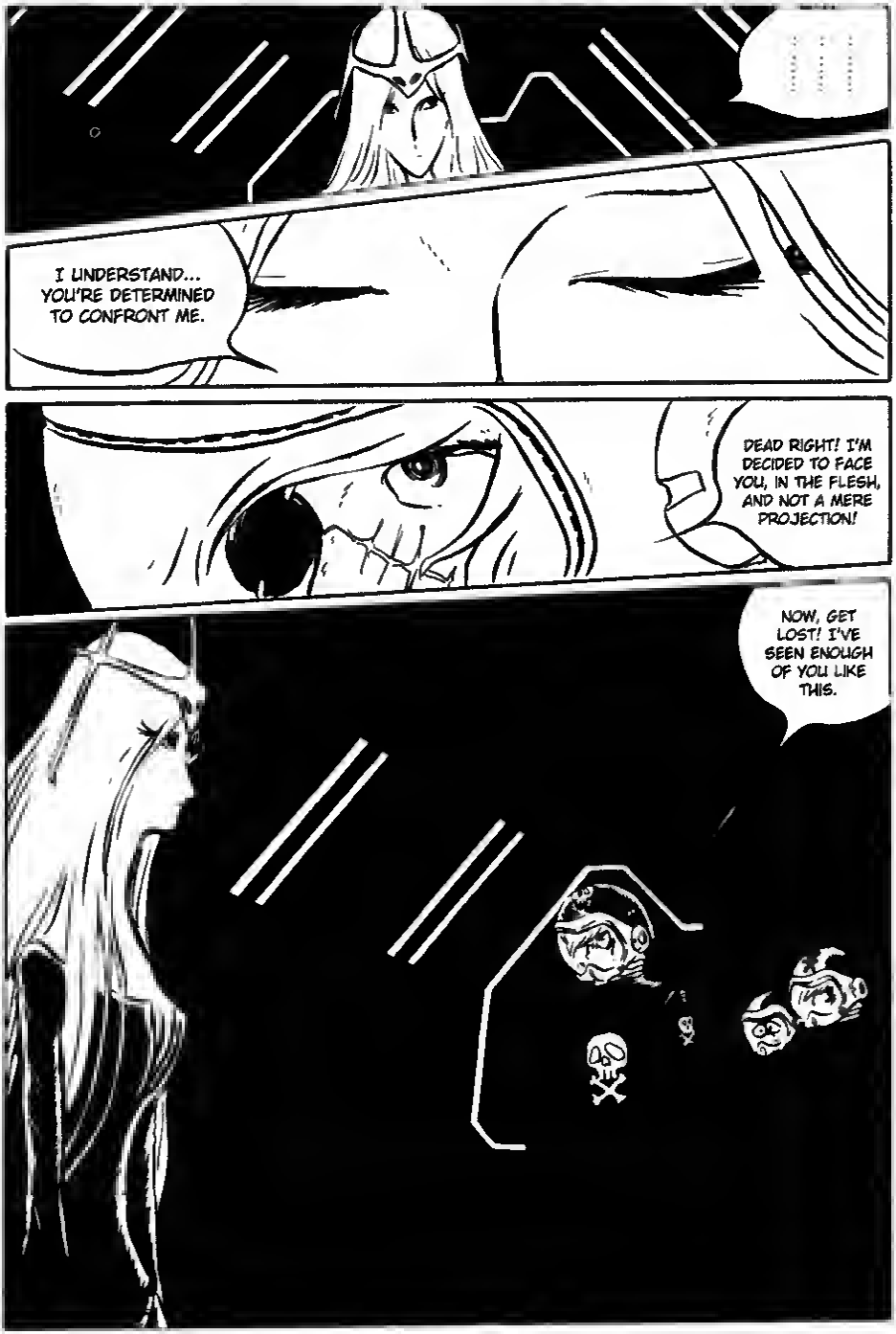

THIS IS THE ROOM WE NEED TO INSPECT... WE MAY FIND SOMETHING THAT'LL HELP US UNDERSTAND THE RELATIONS THAT TIE VENUS THE MAZONE AND THE EARTH...
THIS PART OF THE BASE IS STILL PERFECTLY OPERATIONAL!
B B B B

I AM LAFRESIA, QUEEN OF THE ALMIGHTY MAZONE.
CAPTAIN HARLOCK... DON'T YOU WANT TO MAKE A DEAL WITH ME?
!!


THE
ARCADIA'S DESINGER, HARLOCK'S
FRIEND, OFTEN SAID THE VEIL
OF MYSTERY WRAPS EVERY THING WITH
A MORE APPEALING GLOW THAN TRUTH.
HARLOCK AND HIS FRIENDS ARE, THIS
VERY INSTANT, AT THE HEART OF A VEIL
OF MYSTERY...

I AM LAFRESIA, QUEEN OF THE MAZONE. ANSWER ME, HARLOCK : DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DEAL WITH ME?
I CAME TO YOU TO ASK YOU THIS QUESTION...


YOU CAN TAKE YOUR HELMET OFF, THE AIR HERE IS THE SAME AS ON EARTH.
IF YOU REALLY WERE THE MAZONE'S QUEEN, MAYBE I WOULD REMOVE MY HELMET.
BUT WHY SHOULD I TAKE IT OFF WHILE I'M DEALING WITH A VIRTUAL FORM.
WE'LL HAVE A TALK WHEN YOU PRESENT YOUR ACTUAL SELF BEFORE ME.
I HAVE NO INTENTION TO DISCUSS WITH A QUADRI-DIMENSIONAL IMAGE. I REFUSE TO CONVERSE WITH A SHADOW.
YOU'RE A VERY PROUD MAN, HARLOCK.
YOU DON'T KNOW THE HUMAN'S HEART VERY WELL... BUT THAT'S NORMAL, AFTER ALL...
YOU THINK I SPEAK LIKE THIS BECAUSE OF PRIDE?

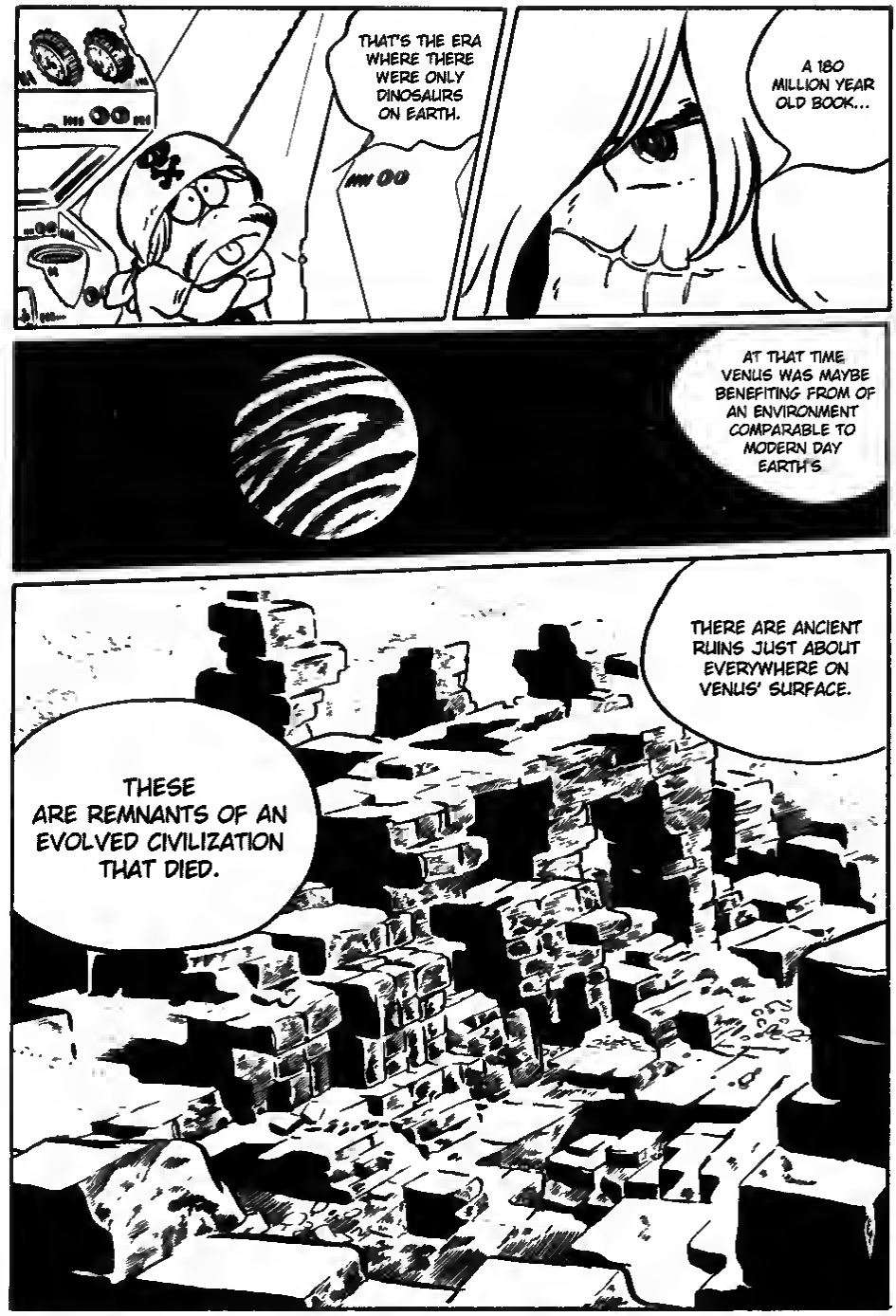

I UNDERSTAND... YOU'RE DETERMINED TO CONFRONT ME.
DEAD RIGHT! I'M DECIDED TO FACE YOU, IN THE FLESH, AND NOT A MERE PROJECTION!
NOW, GET LOST! I'VE SEEN ENOUGH OF YOU LIKE THIS.

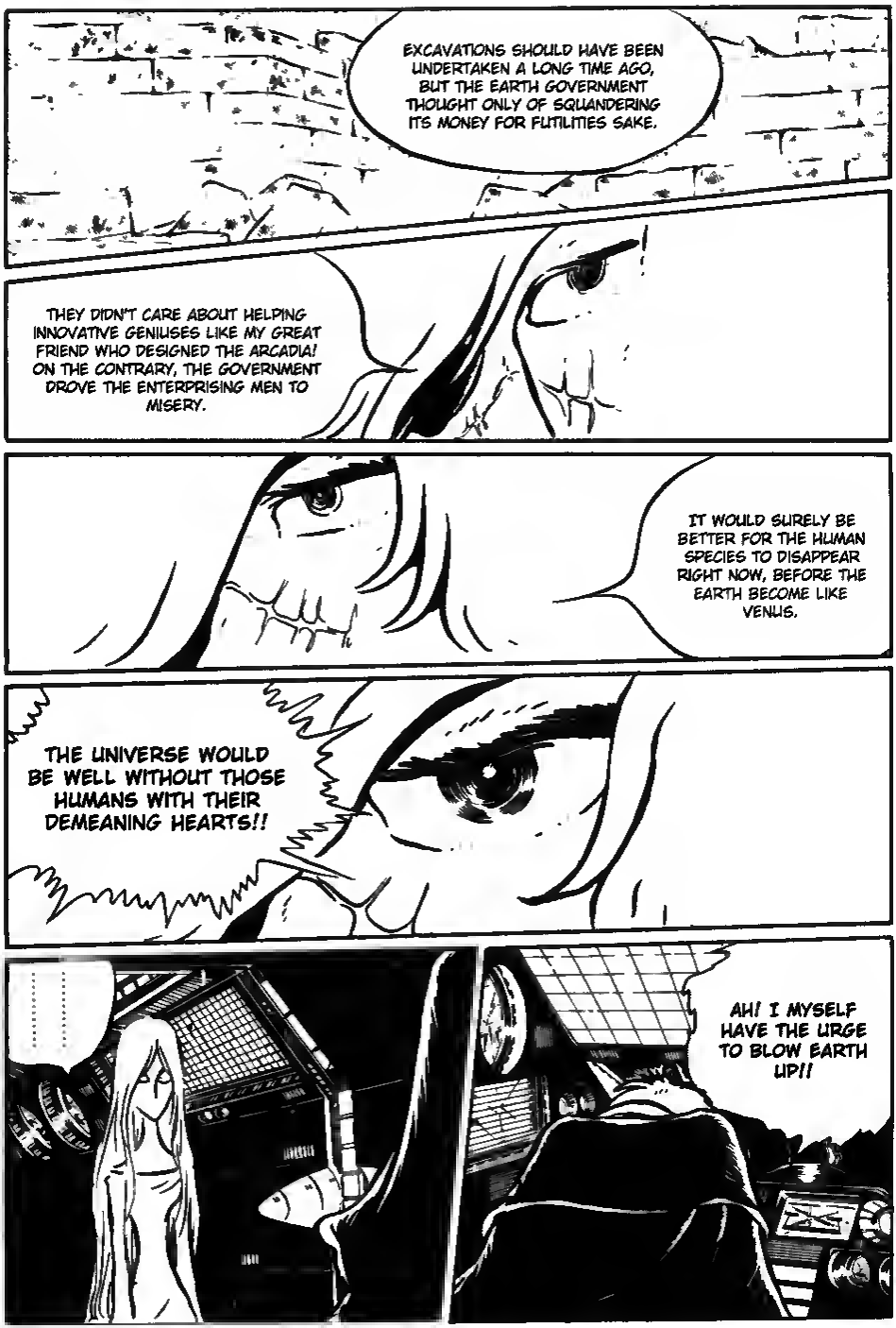
HOW SAD IT IS TO HAVE TO FIGHT THOSE WE'VE CREATED...

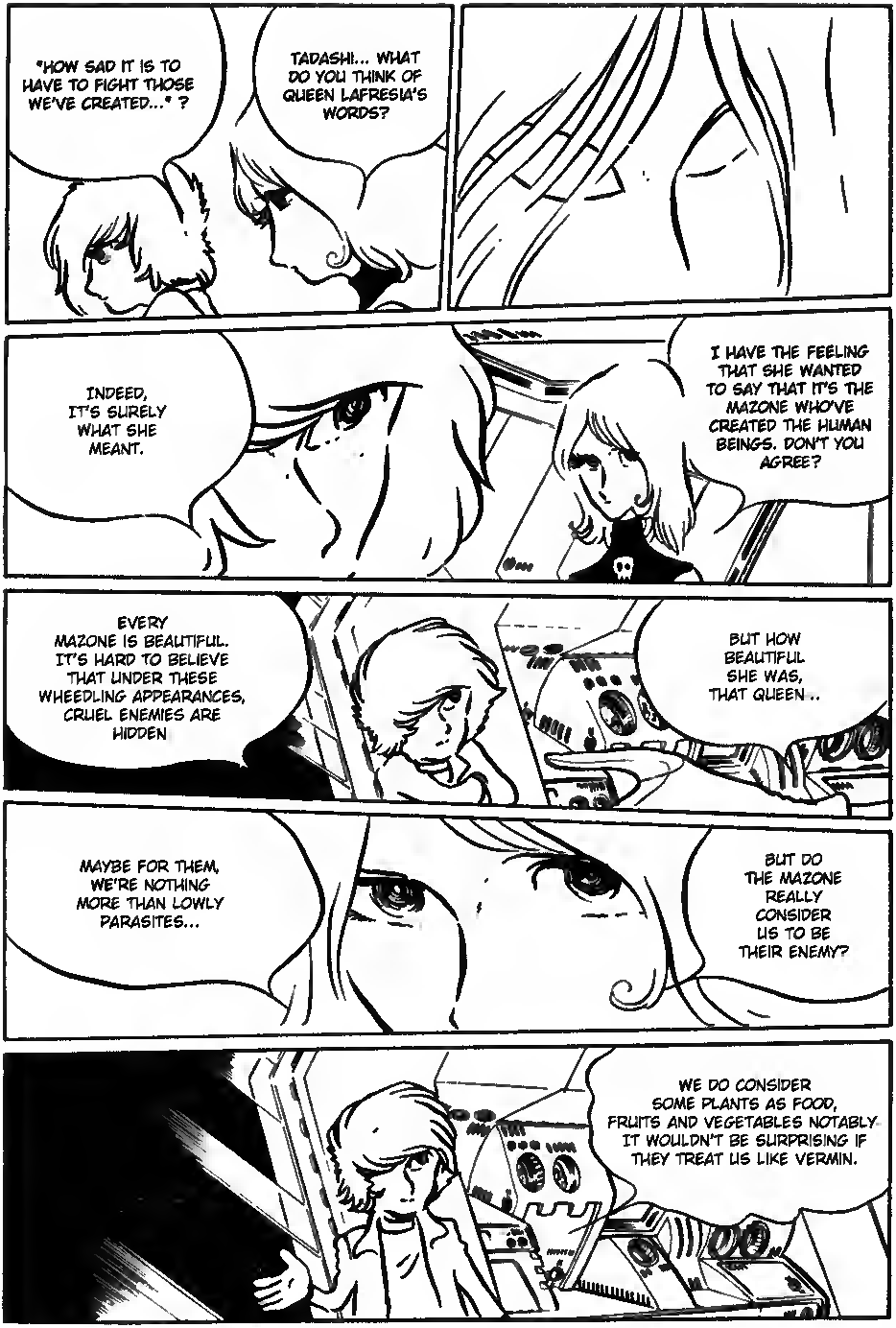
"TO FIGHT THOSE WE'VE CREATED...": WHAT DID SHE MEAN BY THAT?
I'M WONDERING WHERE THE REAL LAFRESIA IS...
LET'S GATHER EVERY CLUE WE CAN FIND AND BRING THEM BACK ON THE ARCADIA.
PERHAPS EVEN SOONER THAN WE EXPECT.
WE'LL END UP MEETING HER SOMEDAY.
THE SMALLEST BIT OF INFORMATION CAN BE USEFUL TO KNOW THE MAZONE.
COLLECT ANYTHING YOU CAN, EVEN IF IT SEEMS OF NO INTEREST.

LET'S ASK THE CAESIUM COMPUTER TO ANALYZE IT.
I DON'T KNOW.
WELL, WELL... WHAT IS IT?
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING SIMILAR ON EARTH?
ANALYZE THIS SAMPLE AND TELL US WHAT ITS FUNCTIONALITIES ARE.
ANSWER N°2: "AN ENTERTAINMENT OBJECT INTENDED TO SATISFY ONE'S FANTASY AND TO BRING PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING."
ANSWER N°1: "A BOOK"

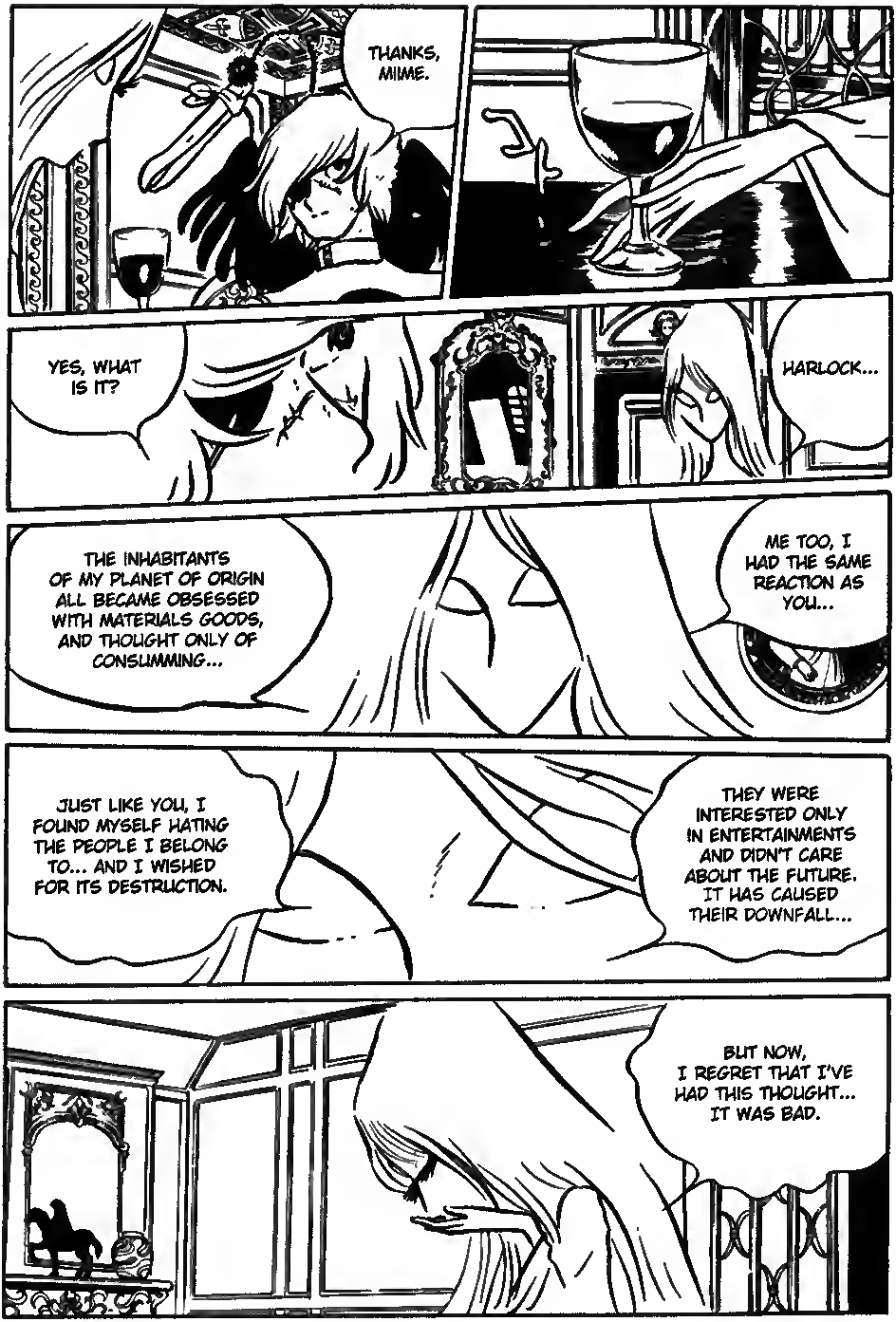
HUMANS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES TO LIKE READING!
AND ACCORDING TO THE COMPUTER'S ANSWERS, IT'S A DISREPUTABLE ONE!
THE MAZONE READ BOOKS!
AH! AH AH AH AH! THAT'S SO FUNNY, CAPTAIN!
NO, THEY'RE PLANTS, LIKE VEGETABLES.
THE MAZONE MIGHT BE NOTHING MORE THAN HUMANS AFTER ALL...
AND THEY READ BOOKS...
...JUST LIKE MEN...
DO WE HAVE AN AGE ESTIMATE OF THIS BOOK?
THE OTHERS ARE DATED FROM PRETTY MUCH THE SAME ERA, TOO.
THE COMPUTER INDICATES 180 MILLION OF YEARS...

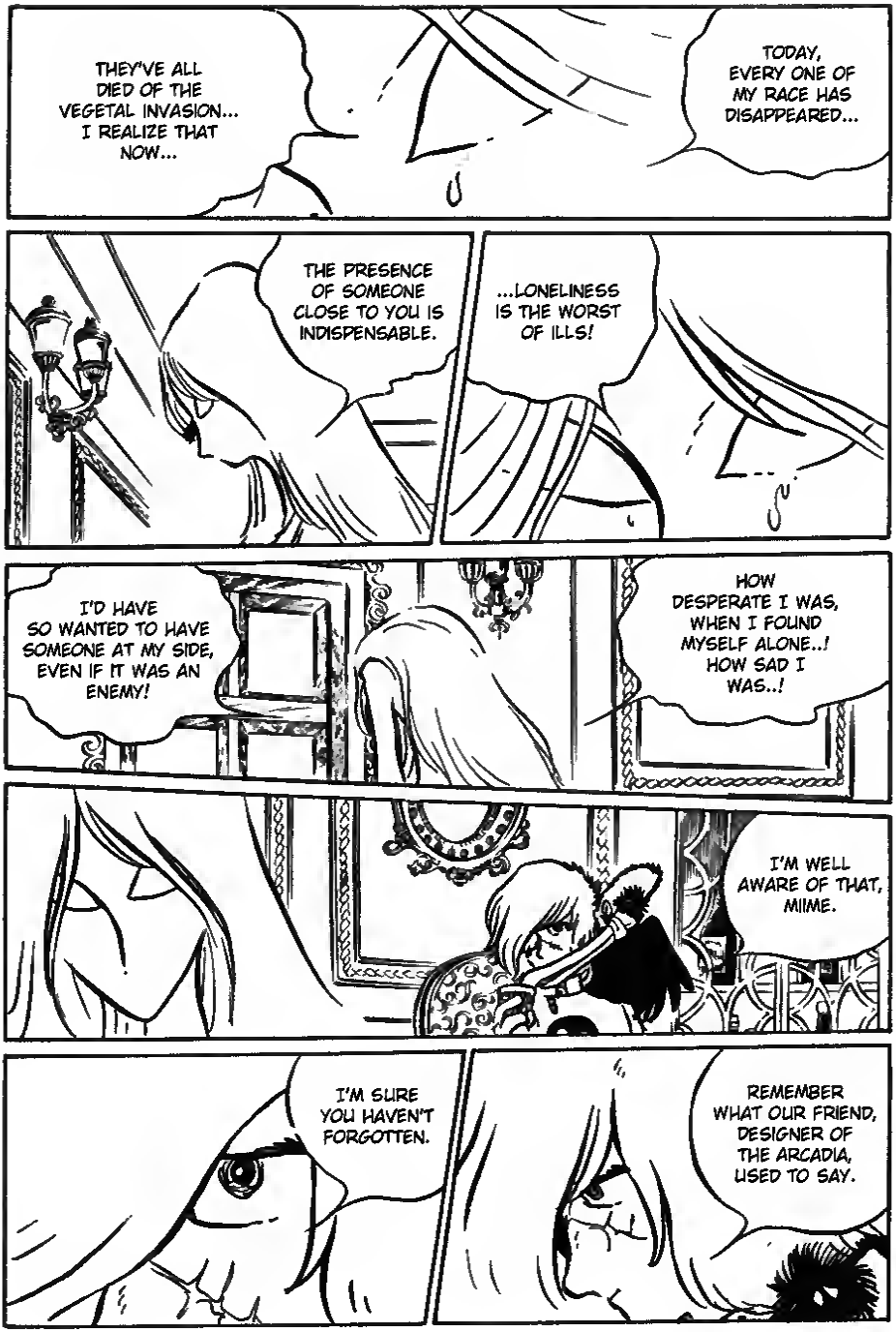

THAT'S THE ERA WHERE THERE WERE ONLY DINOSAURS ON EARTH.
A 180 MILLION YEAR OLD BOOK...
AT THAT TIME VENUS WAS MAYBE BENEFITING FROM OF AN ENVIRONMENT COMPARABLE TO MODERN DAY EARTH'S
THERE ARE ANCIENT RUINS JUST ABOUT EVERYWHERE ON VENUS' SURFACE.
THESE ARE REMNANTS OF AN EVOLVED CIVILIZATION THAT DIED.

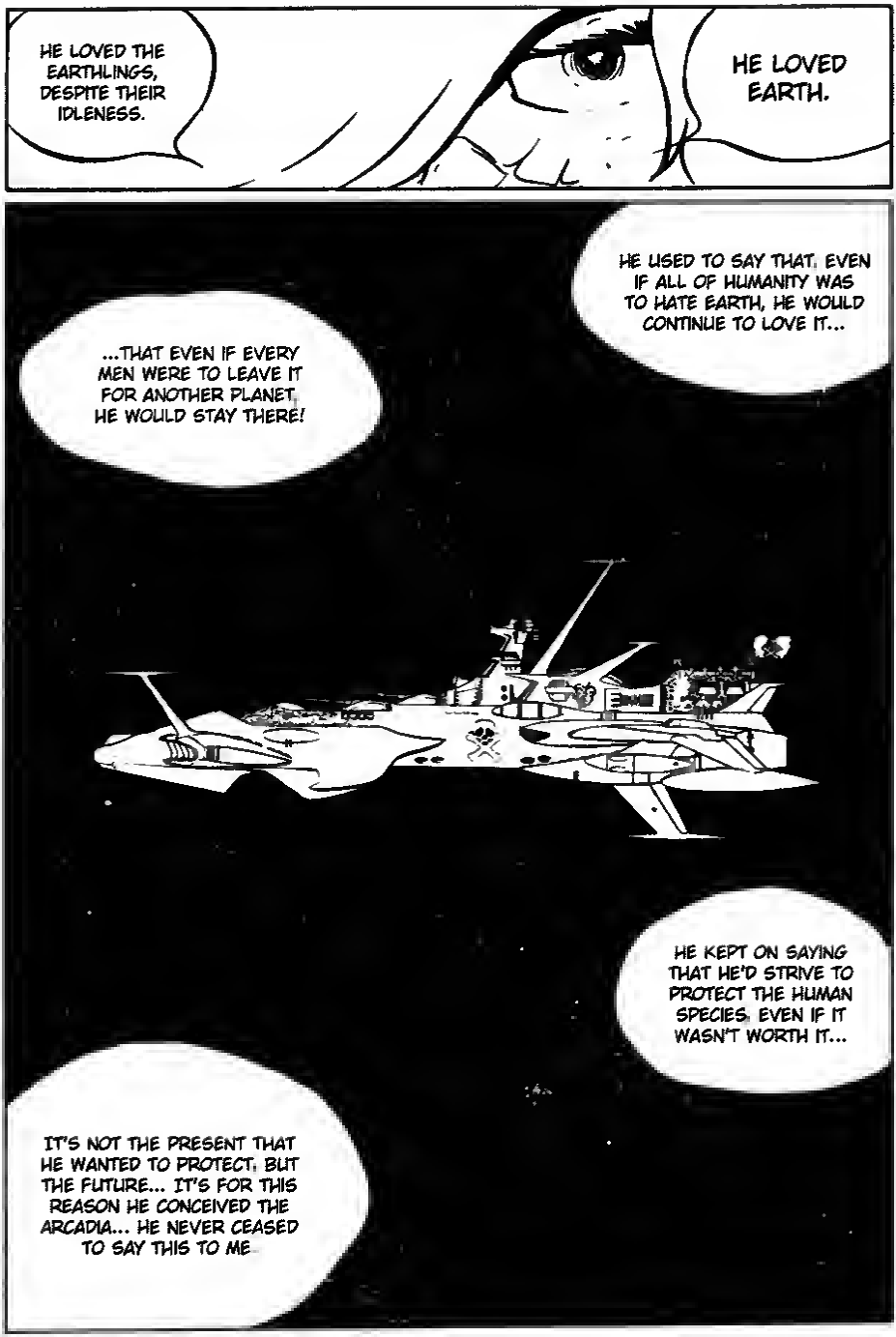

EXCAVATIONS SHOULD HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN A LONG TIME AGO, BUT THE EARTH GOVERNMENT THOUGHT ONLY OF SQUANDERING ITS MONEY FOR FUTILITIES SAKE.
THEY DIDN'T CARE ABOUT HELPING INNOVATIVE GENIUSES LIKE MY GREAT FRIEND WHO DESIGNED THE ARCADIA! ON THE CONTRARY, THE GOVERNMENT DROVE THE ENTERPRISING MEN TO MISERY.
IT WOULD SURELY BE BETTER FOR THE HUMAN SPECIES TO DISAPPEAR RIGHT NOW, BEFORE THE EARTH BECOME LIKE VENUS.
THE UNIVERSE WOULD BE WELL WITHOUT THOSE HUMANS WITH THEIR DEMEANING HEARTS!!
.....
AH! I MYSELF HAVE THE URGE TO BLOW EARTH UP!!

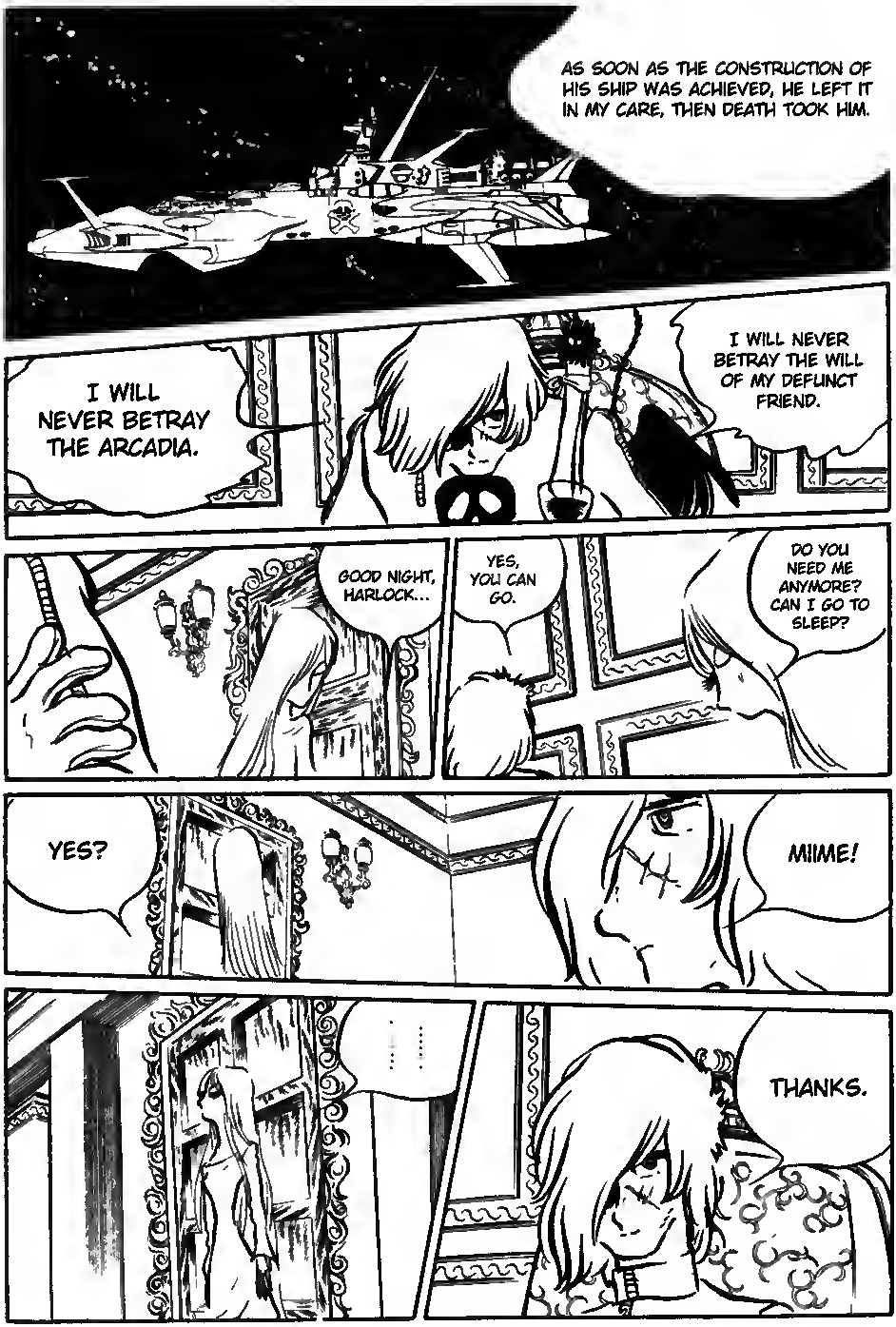

"HOW SAD IT IS TO HAVE TO FIGHT THOSE WE'VE CREATED..." ?
TADASHI... WHAT DO YOU THINK OF QUEEN LAFRESIA'S WORDS?
INDEED, IT'S SURELY WHAT SHE MEANT.
I HAVE THE FEELING THAT SHE WANTED TO SAY THAT IT'S THE MAZONE WHO'VE CREATED THE HUMAN BEINGS. DON'T YOU AGREE?
EVERY MAZONE IS BEAUTIFUL. IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT UNDER THESE WHEEDLING APPEARANCES, CRUEL ENEMIES ARE HIDDEN
BUT HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE WAS, THAT QUEEN ..
MAYBE FOR THEM, WE'RE NOTHING MORE THAN LOWLY PARASITES...
BUT DO THE MAZONE REALLY CONSIDER US TO BE THEIR ENEMY?
WE DO CONSIDER SOME PLANTS AS FOOD, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES NOTABLY. IT WOULDN'T BE SURPRISING IF THEY TREAT US LIKE VERMIN.

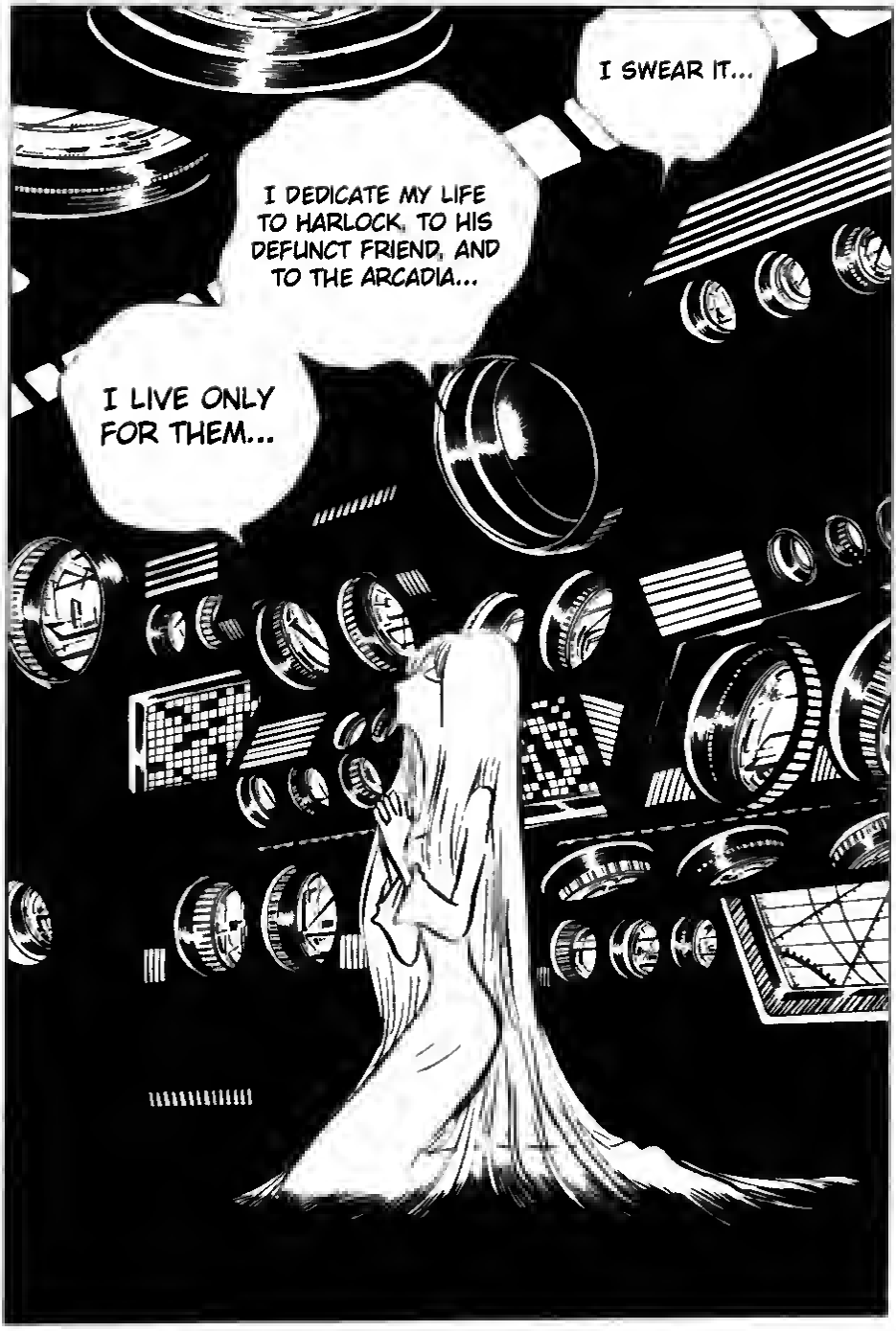
POOR MAZONE! THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT FEARSOME ENEMY THEY'RE DEALING WITH!
HMMM! THESE POTATOES ARE DELICIOUS!
DOESN'T MATTER! WHEN I EAT, I DON'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE!
YOU'RE AWARE THAT MAYBE YOU'RE GOBBLING A MAZONE'S PARENT?


THANKS, MIIME.
YES, WHAT IS IT?
HARLOCK...
THE INHABITANTS OF MY PLANET OF ORIGIN ALL BECAME OBSESSED WITH MATERIALS GOODS, AND THOUGHT ONLY OF CONSUMMING...
ME TOO, I HAD THE SAME REACTION AS YOU...
JUST LIKE YOU, I FOUND MYSELF HATING THE PEOPLE I BELONG TO... AND I WISHED FOR ITS DESTRUCTION.
THEY WERE INTERESTED ONLY IN ENTERTAINMENTS AND DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE FUTURE. IT HAS CAUSED THEIR DOWNFALL...
BUT NOW, I REGRET THAT I'VE HAD THIS THOUGHT... IT WAS BAD.

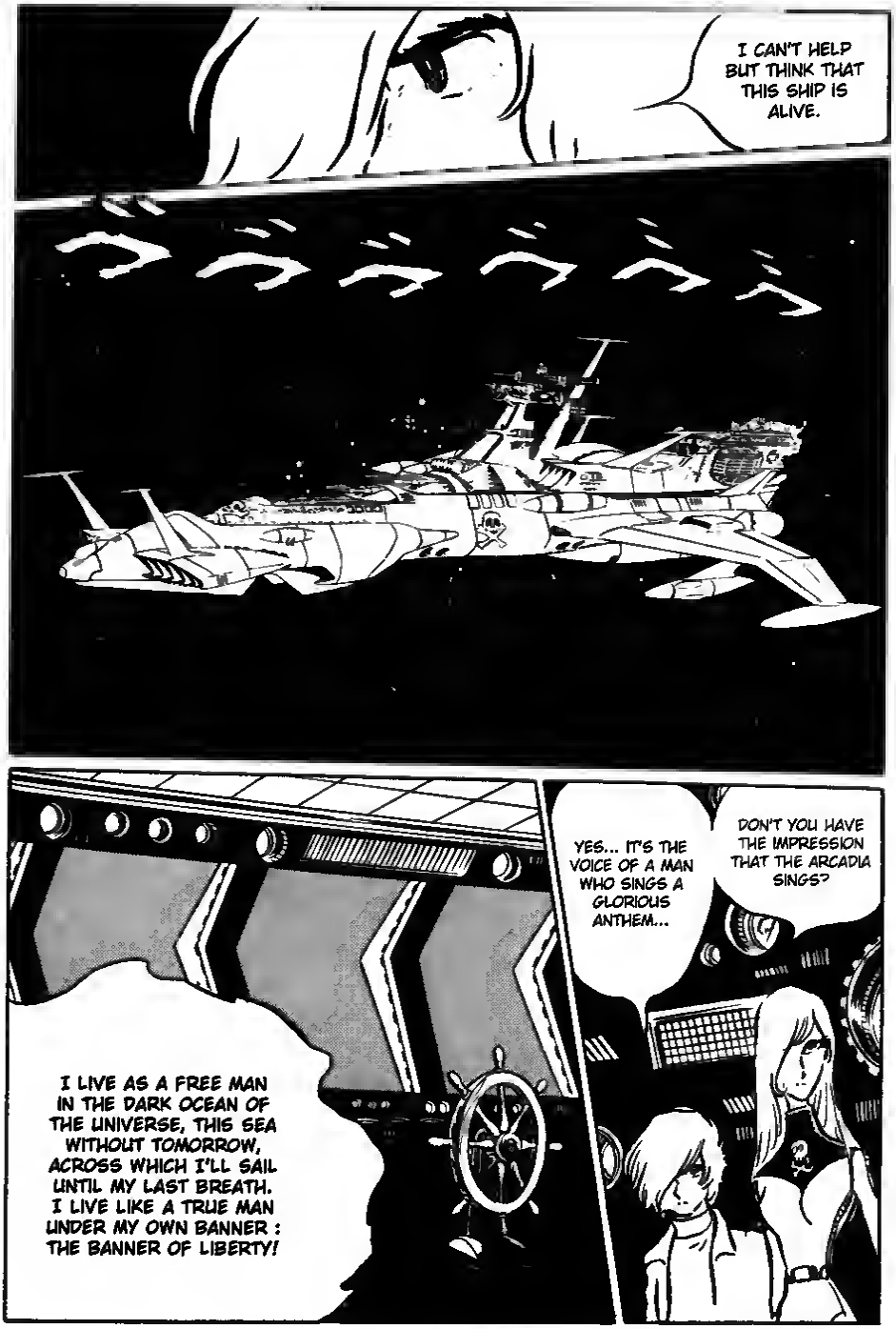

THEY'VE ALL DIED OF THE VEGETAL INVASION... I REALIZE THAT NOW...
TODAY, EVERY ONE OF MY RACE HAS DISAPPEARED...
THE PRESENCE OF SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU IS INDISPENSABLE.
...LONELINESS IS THE WORST OF ILLS!
I'D HAVE SO WANTED TO HAVE SOMEONE AT MY SIDE, EVEN IF IT WAS AN ENEMY!
HOW DESPERATE I WAS, WHEN I FOUND MYSELF ALONE..! HOW SAD I WAS..!
I'M WELL AWARE OF THAT, MIIME.
I'M SURE YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN.
REMEMBER WHAT OUR FRIEND, DESIGNER OF THE ARCADIA, USED TO SAY.


HE LOVED THE EARTHLINGS, DESPITE THEIR IDLENESS.
HE LOVED EARTH.
HE USED TO SAY THAT, EVEN IF ALL OF HUMANITY WAS TO HATE EARTH, HE WOULD CONTINUE TO LOVE IT...
...THAT EVEN IF EVERY MEN WERE TO LEAVE IT FOR ANOTHER PLANET, HE WOULD STAY THERE!
HE KEPT ON SAYING THAT HE'D STRIVE TO PROTECT THE HUMAN SPECIES, EVEN IF IT WASN'T WORTH IT...
IT'S NOT THE PRESENT THAT HE WANTED TO PROTECT, BUT THE FUTURE... IT'S FOR THIS REASON HE CONCEIVED THE ARCADIA... HE NEVER CEASED TO SAY THIS TO ME.

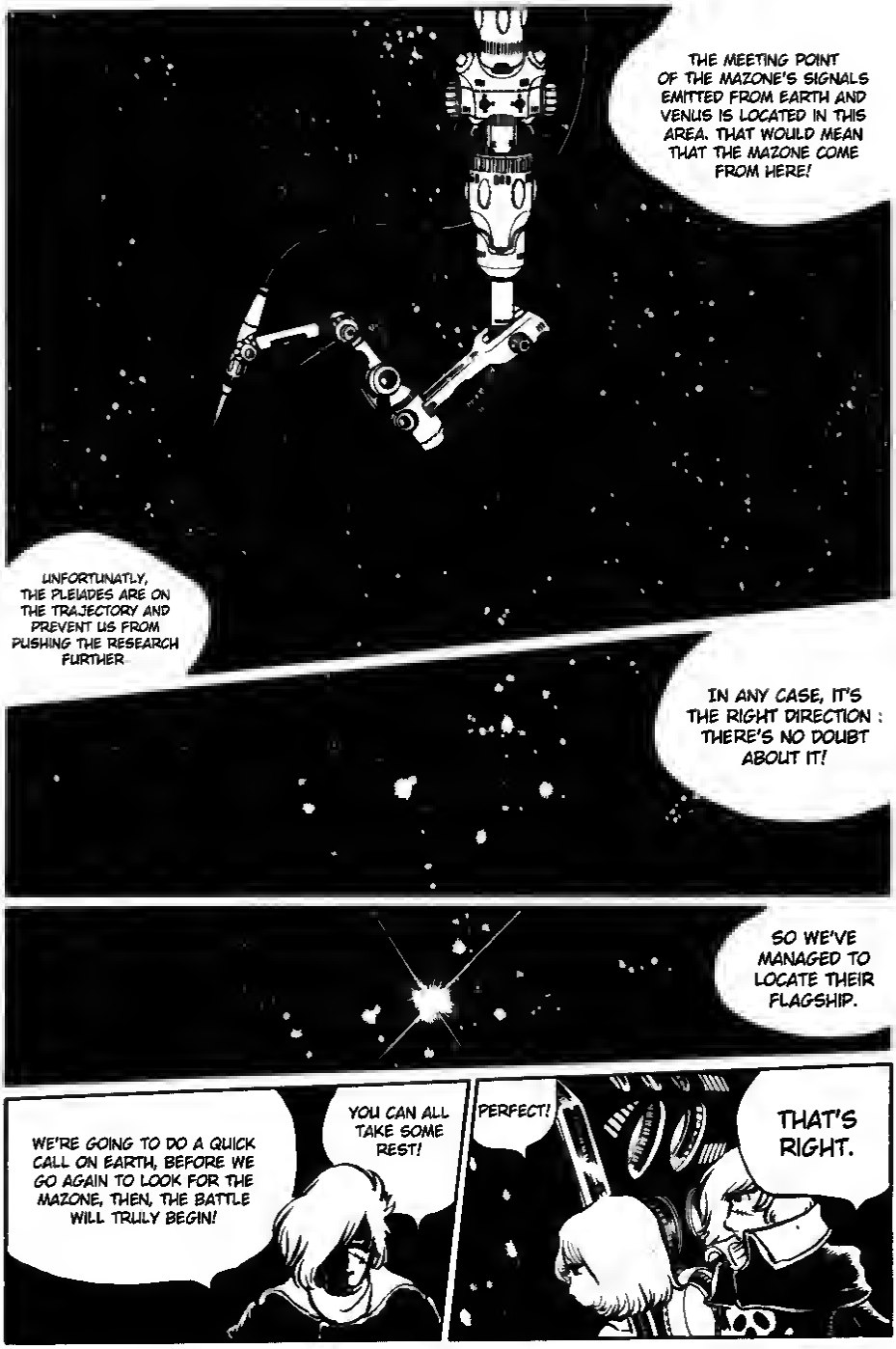

AS SOON AS THE CONSTRUCTION OF HIS SHIP WAS ACHIEVED, HE LEFT IT IN MY CARE, THEN DEATH TOOK HIM.
I WILL NEVER BETRAY THE ARCADIA.
I WILL NEVER BETRAY THE WILL OF MY DEFUNCT FRIEND.
GOOD NIGHT, HARLOCK...
YES, YOU CAN GO.
DO YOU NEED ME ANYMORE? CAN I GO TO SLEEP?
YES?
MIME!
.....
THANKS.

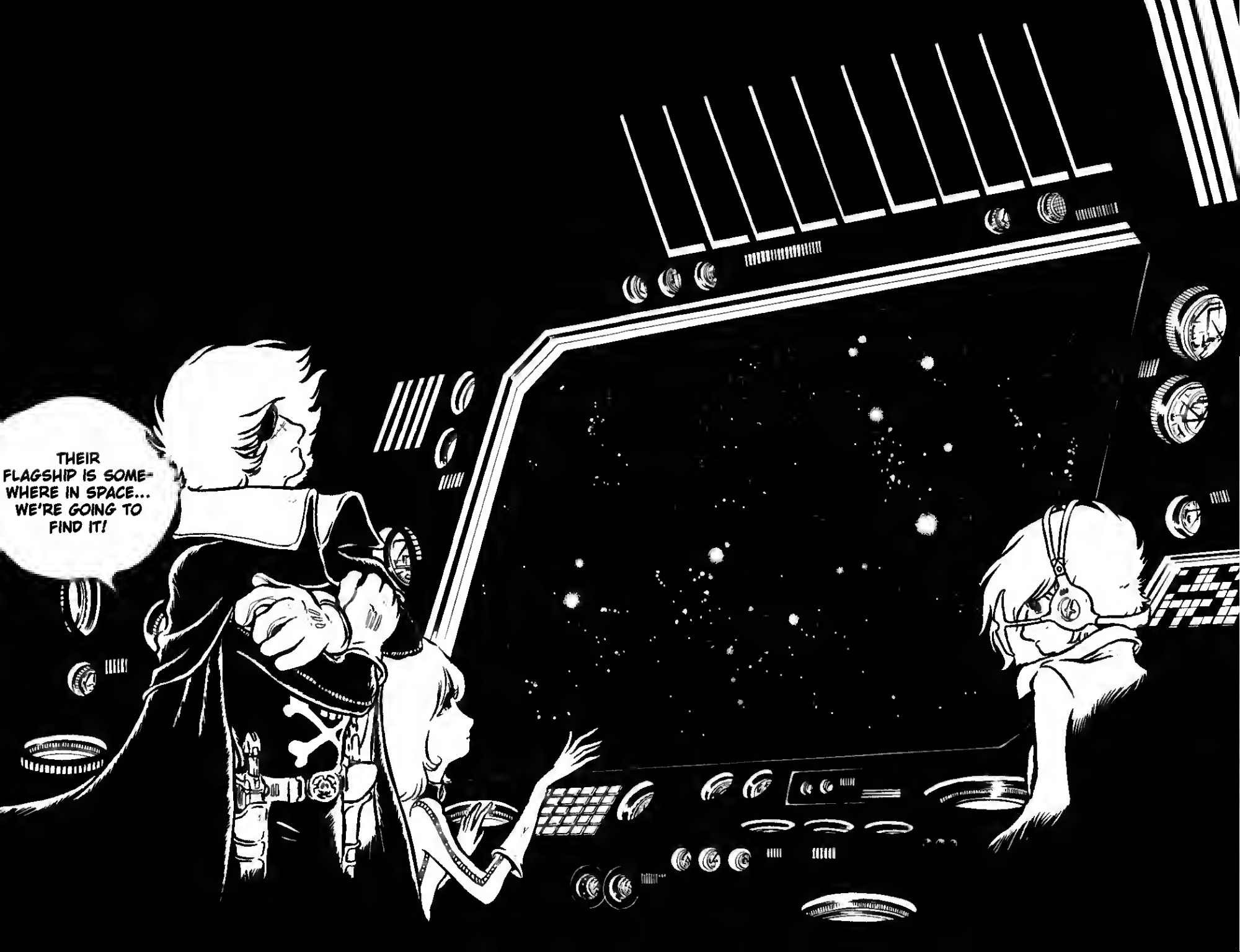

I SWEAR IT...
I DEDICATE MY LIFE TO HARLOCK, TO HIS DEFUNCT FRIEND, AND TO THE ARCADIA...
I LIVE ONLY FOR THEM...

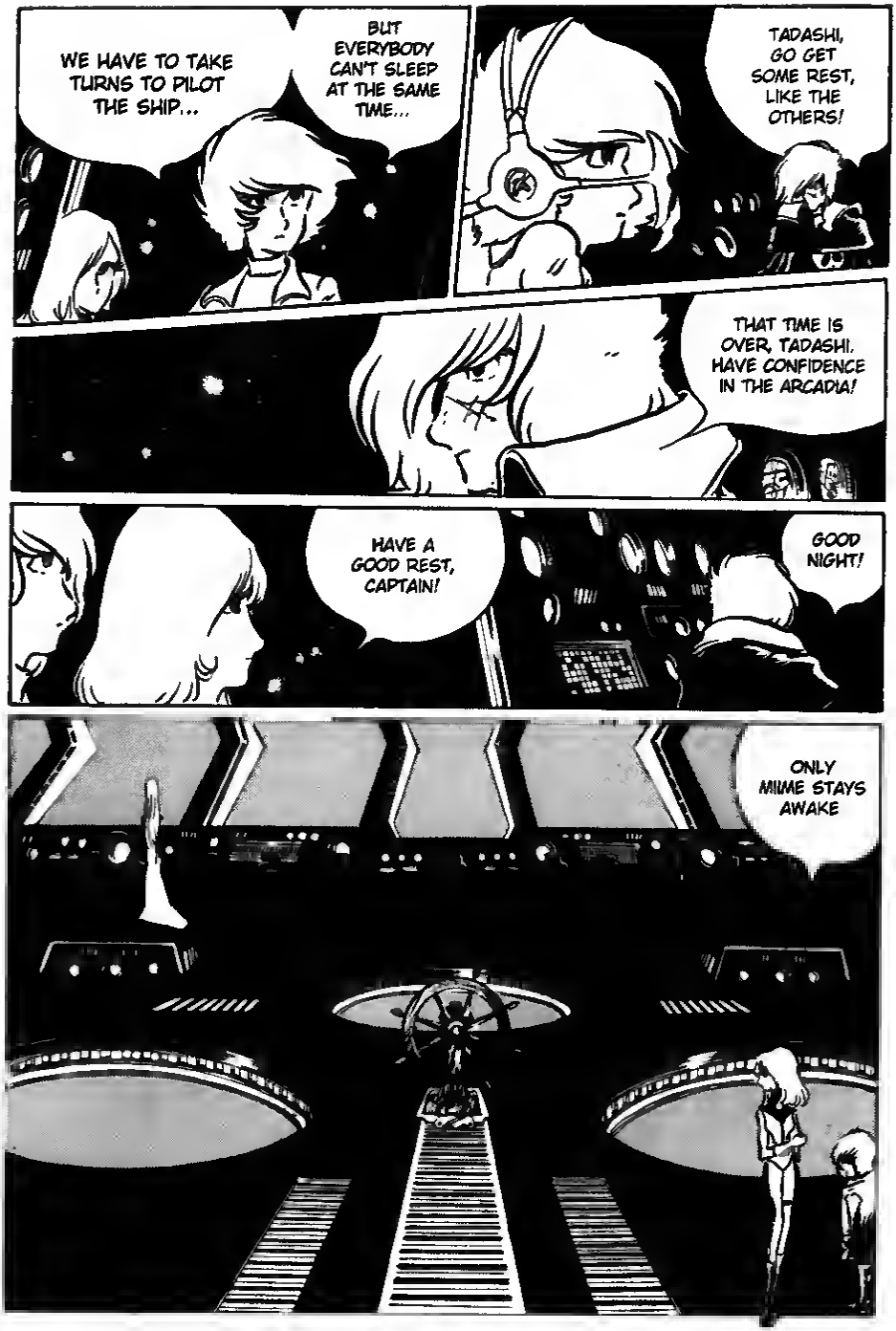
IT DID TREMBLE.
DID I DREAM.. OR DID THE ARCADIA TREMBLED?
SINCE BEING ABOARD, I'VE FELT SOMETHING...
I HAVE THE FEELING THAT IT'S... ALIVE, THAT IT HAS IT'S OWN WILL...
THE ARCADIA IS A PIRATE SHIP, BUT IT HAS SOMETHING SPECIAL.


I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT THIS SHIP IS ALIVE.
I LIVE AS A FREE MAN IN THE DARK OCEAN OF THE UNIVERSE, THIS SEA WITHOUT TOMORROW, ACROSS WHICH I'LL SAIL UNTIL MY LAST BREATH. I LIVE LIKE A TRUE MAN UNDER MY OWN BANNER : THE BANNER OF LIBERTY!
YES... IT'S THE VOICE OF A MAN WHO SINGS A GLORIOUS ANTHEM...
DON'T YOU HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ARCADIA SINGS?

I WANDER AMIDST THE STARS.
PEOPLE CALL ME
"CAPTAIN HARLOCK"...
FLYING THE JOLLY ROGER,
I TRAVEL ACROSS A SEA WITHOUT
TOMORROW,
AND I LIVE AS A FREE MAN
UNDER MY OWN BANNER:
THAT OF LIBERTY!
OF ALL THE UNIVERSE'S
VALUES, ONLY ONE
REMAINS INESTIMABLE :
"FRIENDSHIP"! THAT'S
WHAT AN UNKNOWN ARTIST
OF ANCIENT EGYPT
ENGRAVED ON A SCARAB,
WHICH STILL EXISTED IN
THE 20TH CENTURY...

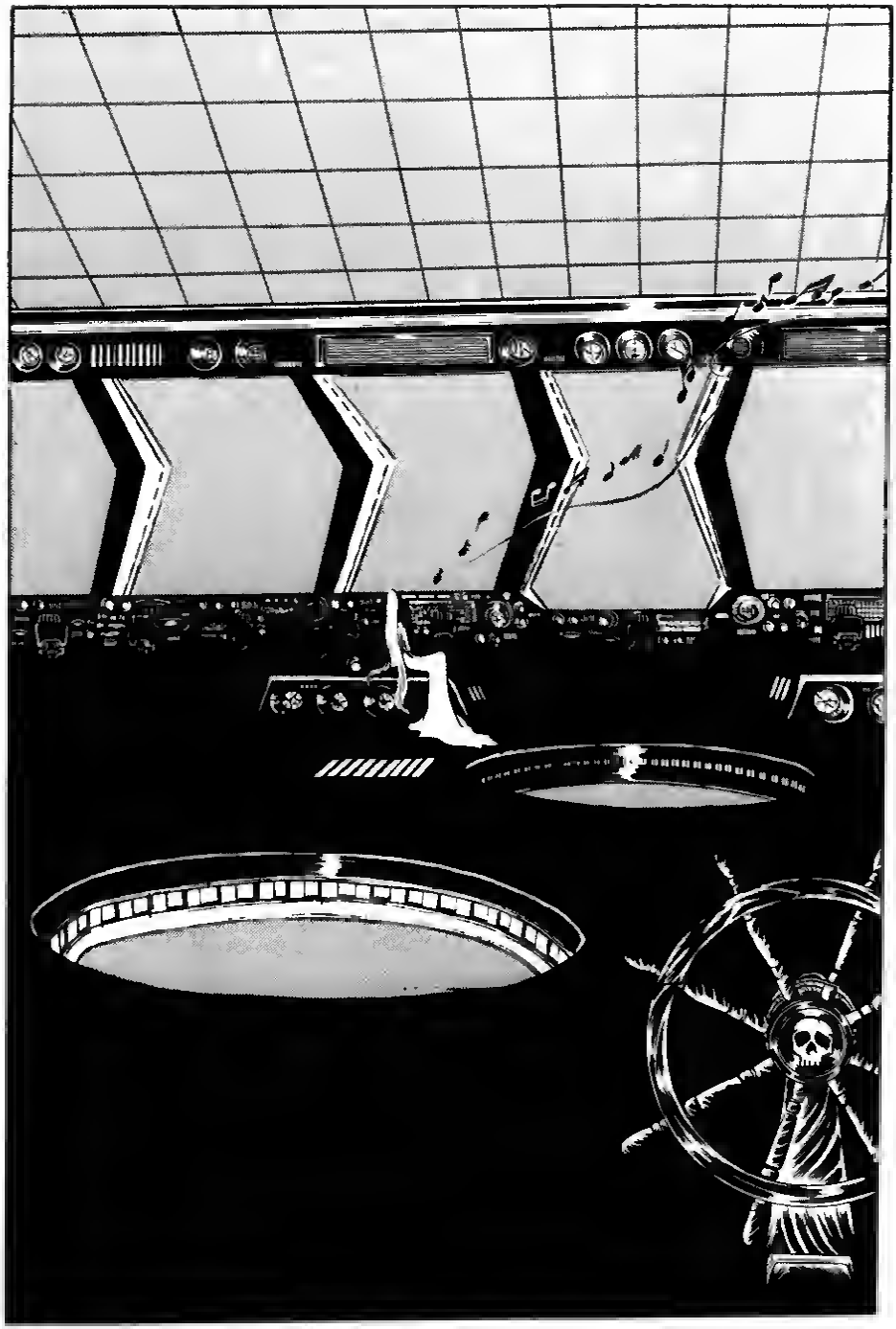

THE MEETING POINT OF THE MAZONE'S SIGNALS EMITTED FROM EARTH AND VENUS IS LOCATED IN THIS AREA. THAT WOULD MEAN THAT THE MAZONE COME FROM HERE!
UNFORTUNATLY, THE PLEIADES ARE ON THE TRAJECTORY AND PREVENT US FROM PUSHING THE RESEARCH FURTHER
IN ANY CASE, IT'S THE RIGHT DIRECTION : THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
SO WE'VE MANAGED TO LOCATE THEIR FLAGSHIP.
WE'RE GOING TO DO A QUICK CALL ON EARTH, BEFORE WE GO AGAIN TO LOOK FOR THE MAZONE, THEN, THE BATTLE WILL TRULY BEGIN!
YOU CAN ALL TAKE SOME REST!
PERFECT!
THAT'S RIGHT.

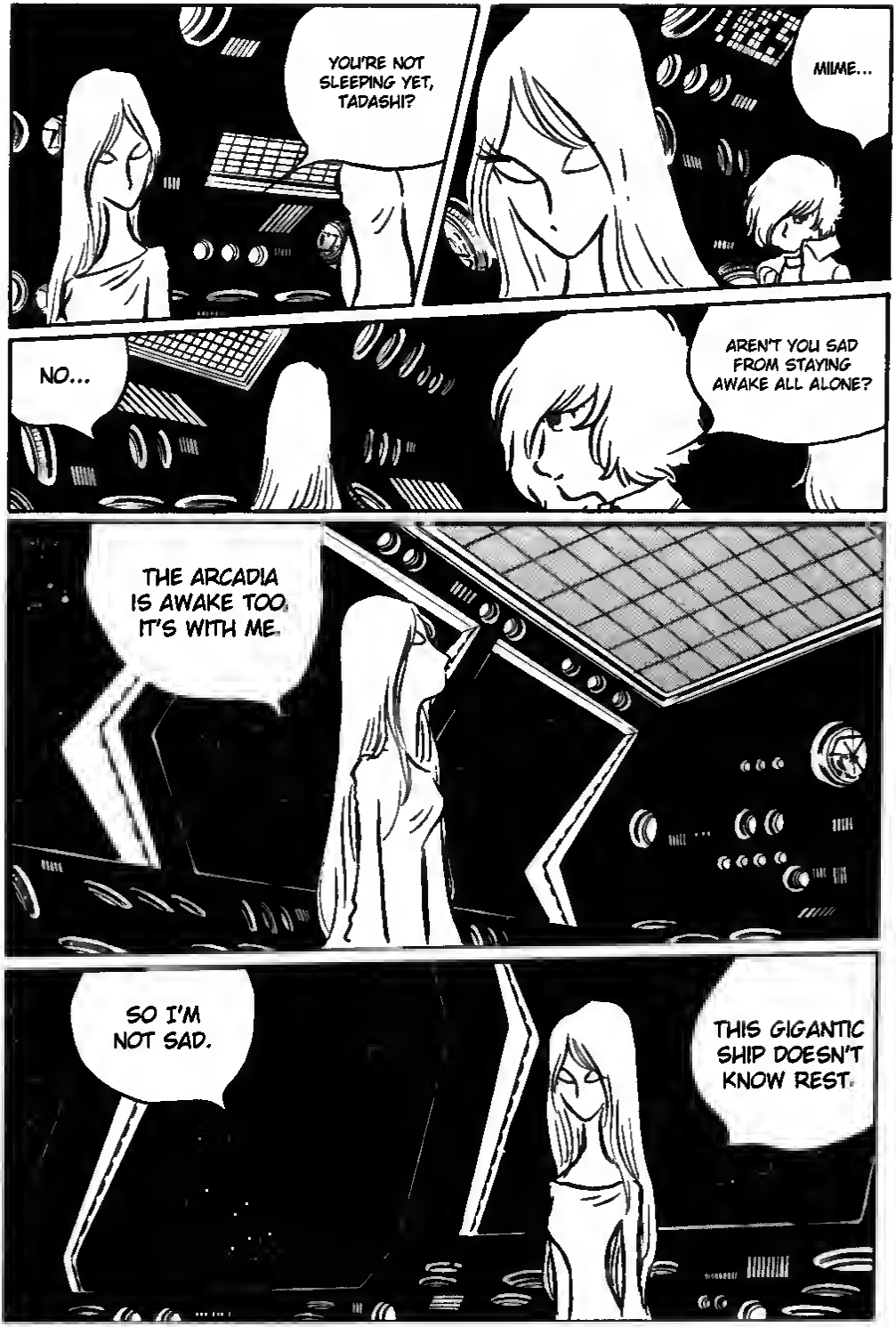

THEIR FLAGSHIP IS SOMEWHERE IN SPACE... WE'RE GOING TO FIND IT!

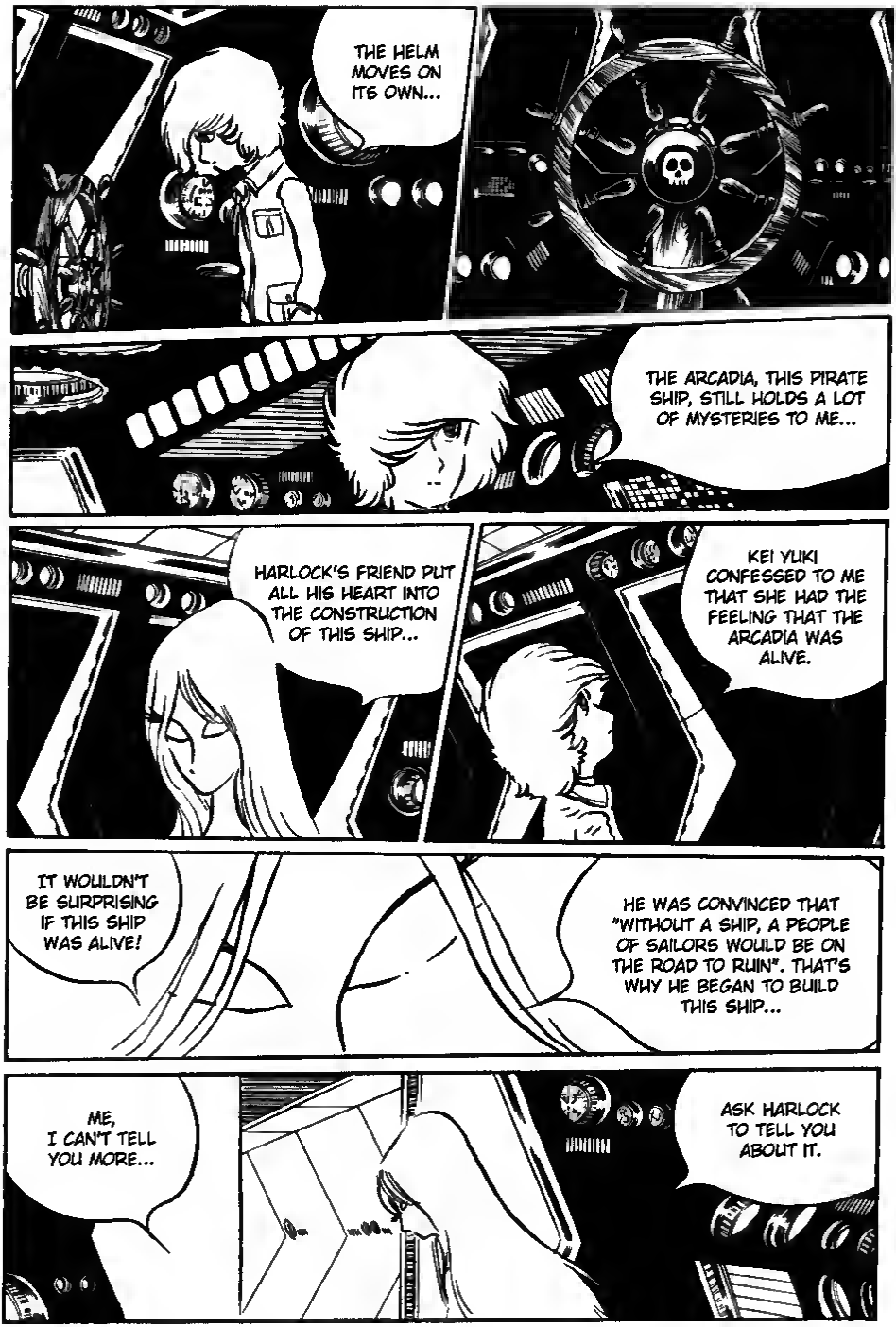

WE HAVE TO TAKE TURNS TO PILOT THE SHIP...
BUT EVERYBODY CAN'T SLEEP AT THE SAME TIME...
TADASHI, GO GET SOME REST, LIKE THE OTHERS!
THAT TIME IS OVER, TADASHI. HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE ARCADIA!
HAVE A GOOD REST, CAPTAIN!
GOOD NIGHT!
ONLY MIME STAYS AWAKE

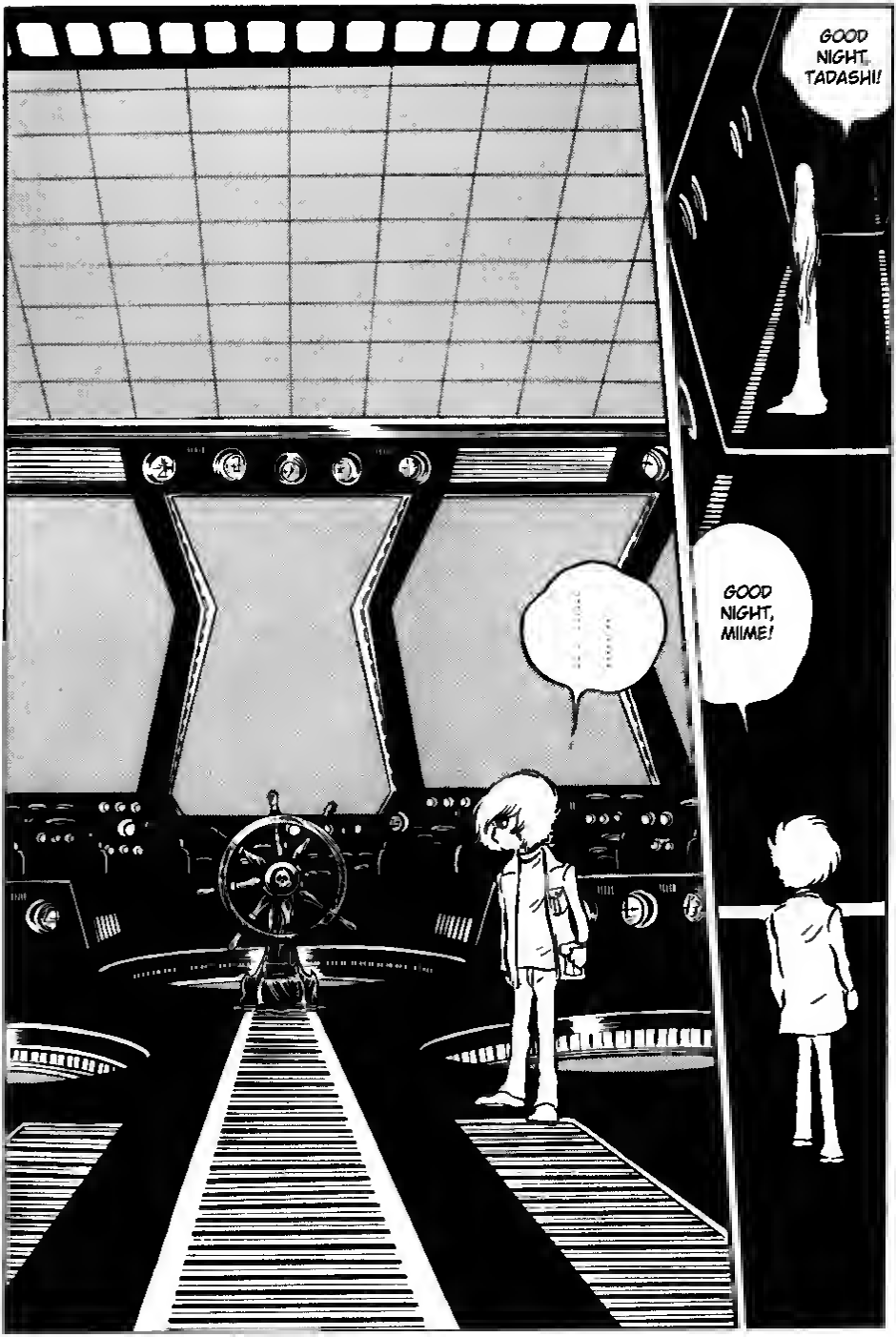
MAYBE HER RACE IS MORE EVOLVED THAN THE HUMAN SPECIES...
IF SHE STAYS SOBER, SHE COULD GO WITHOUT SLEEPING DURING HER ENTIRE LIFE.
MIIME SLEEPS ONLY WHEN SHE DRANK TOO MUCH.
IT'S A MELODY THAT HAS NO MATCH ON EARTH... MIIME OFTEN SINGS IT WHEN SHE'S ALONE.
THIS SONG...?

SURELY SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SHARE HER PAIN WITH US...
IN FRONT OF US, SHE TRIES TO APPEAR CHEERFUL, BUT DEEP INSIDE, SHE'S INFINITELY SAD.
SHE'S OFTEN REALLY MELANCHOLIC.IT'S ONLY NATURAL, BECAUSE SHE'S THE LAST SURVIVOR OF HER PLANET...
THE HUMANS ARE STUPID AND WEAK, BUT IT'S STILL BETTER THAN IF THE ENTIRE SPECIES WAS ANNIHILATED.
YES... THIS TUNE IS SO PENETRATING, I FEEL LIKE I'M ABOUT TO BURST INTO TEARS...
WHAT A SAD CHANT!

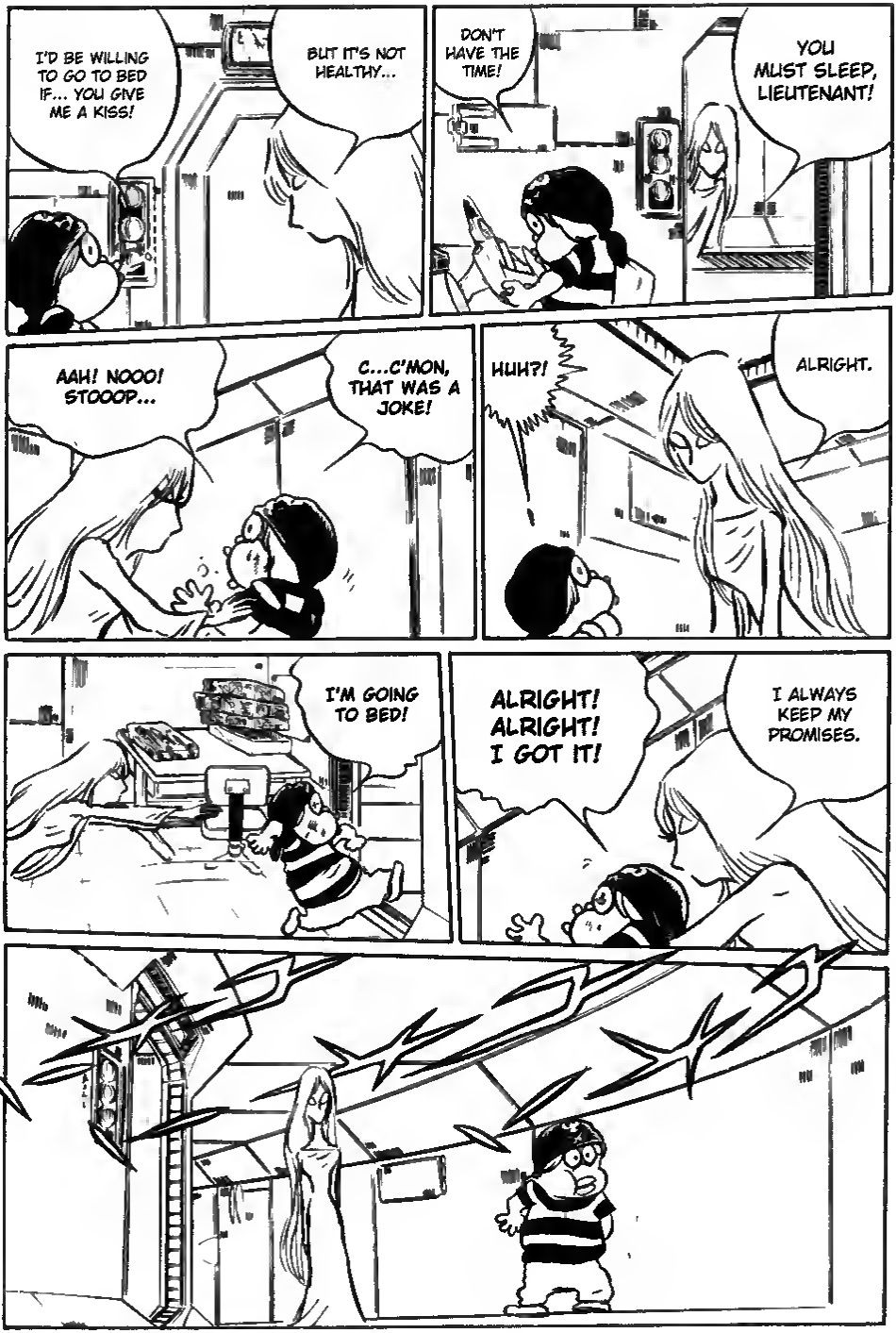



YOU'RE NOT SLEEPING YET, TADASHI?
MIIME...
NO...
AREN'T YOU SAD FROM STAYING AWAKE ALL ALONE?
THE ARCADIA IS AWAKE TOO. IT'S WITH ME.
SO I'M NOT SAD.
THIS GIGANTIC SHIP DOESN'T KNOW REST.

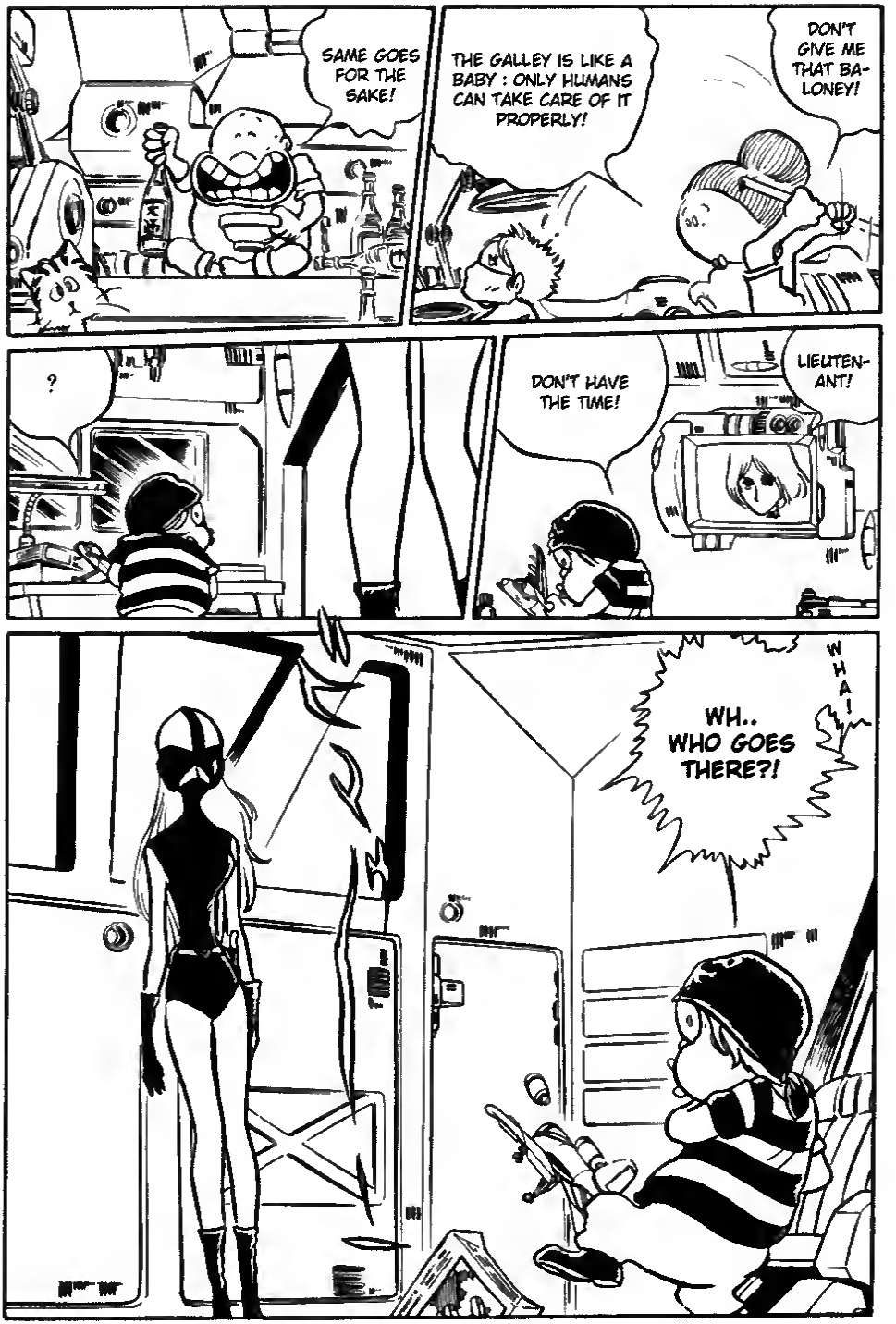

THE HELM MOVES ON ITS OWN...
THE ARCADIA, THIS PIRATE SHIP, STILL HOLDS A LOT OF MYSTERIES TO ME...
HARLOCK'S FRIEND PUT ALL HIS HEART INTO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS SHIP...
KEI YUKI CONFESSED TO ME THAT SHE HAD THE FEELING THAT THE ARCADIA WAS ALIVE.
IT WOULDN'T BE SURPRISING IF THIS SHIP WAS ALIVE!
HE WAS CONVINCED THAT "WITHOUT A SHIP, A PEOPLE OF SAILORS WOULD BE ON THE ROAD TO RUIN". THAT'S WHY HE BEGAN TO BUILD THIS SHIP...
ME, I CAN'T TELL YOU MORE...
ASK HARLOCK TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT.

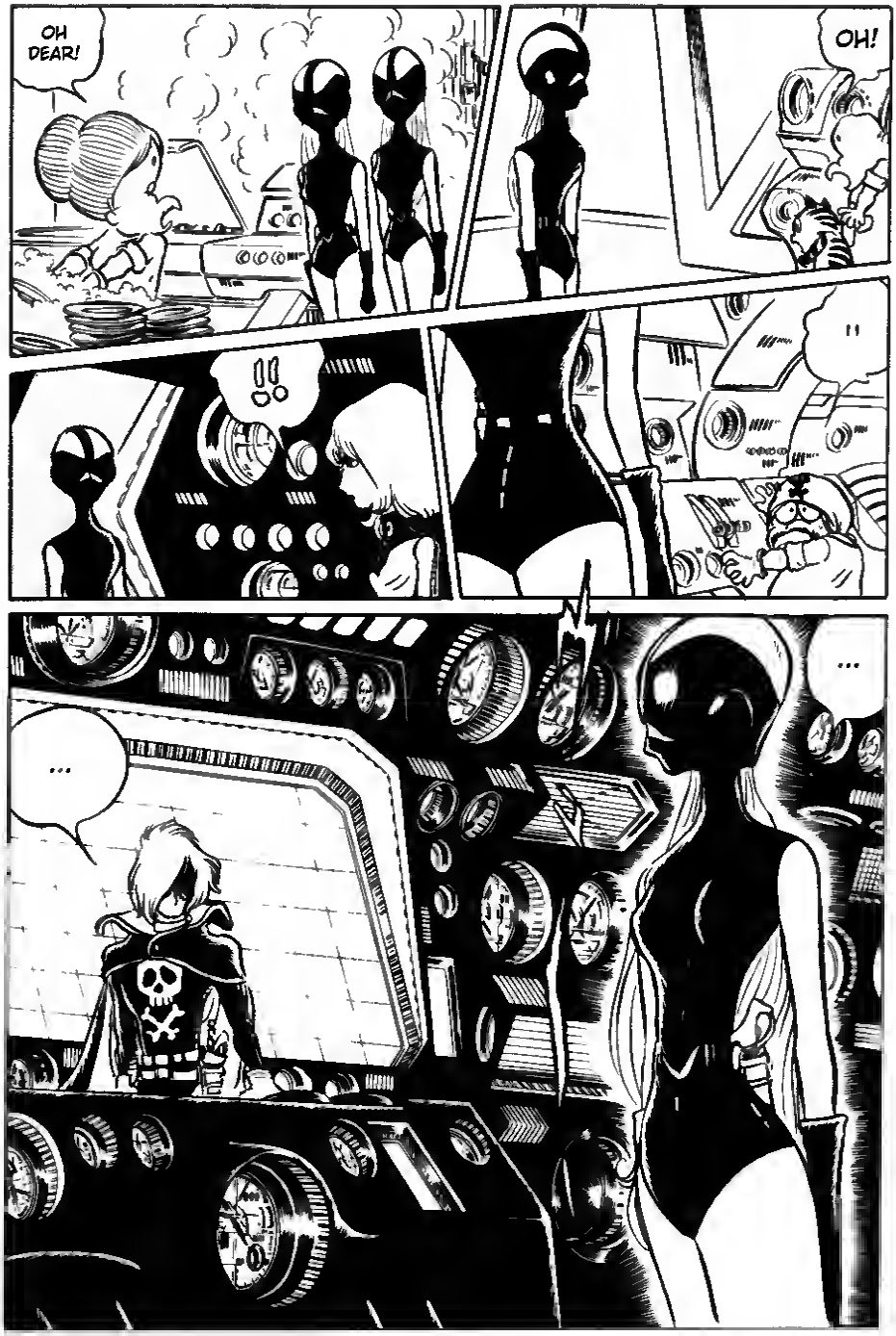

GOOD NIGHT, TADASHI!
GOOD NIGHT, MIIME!

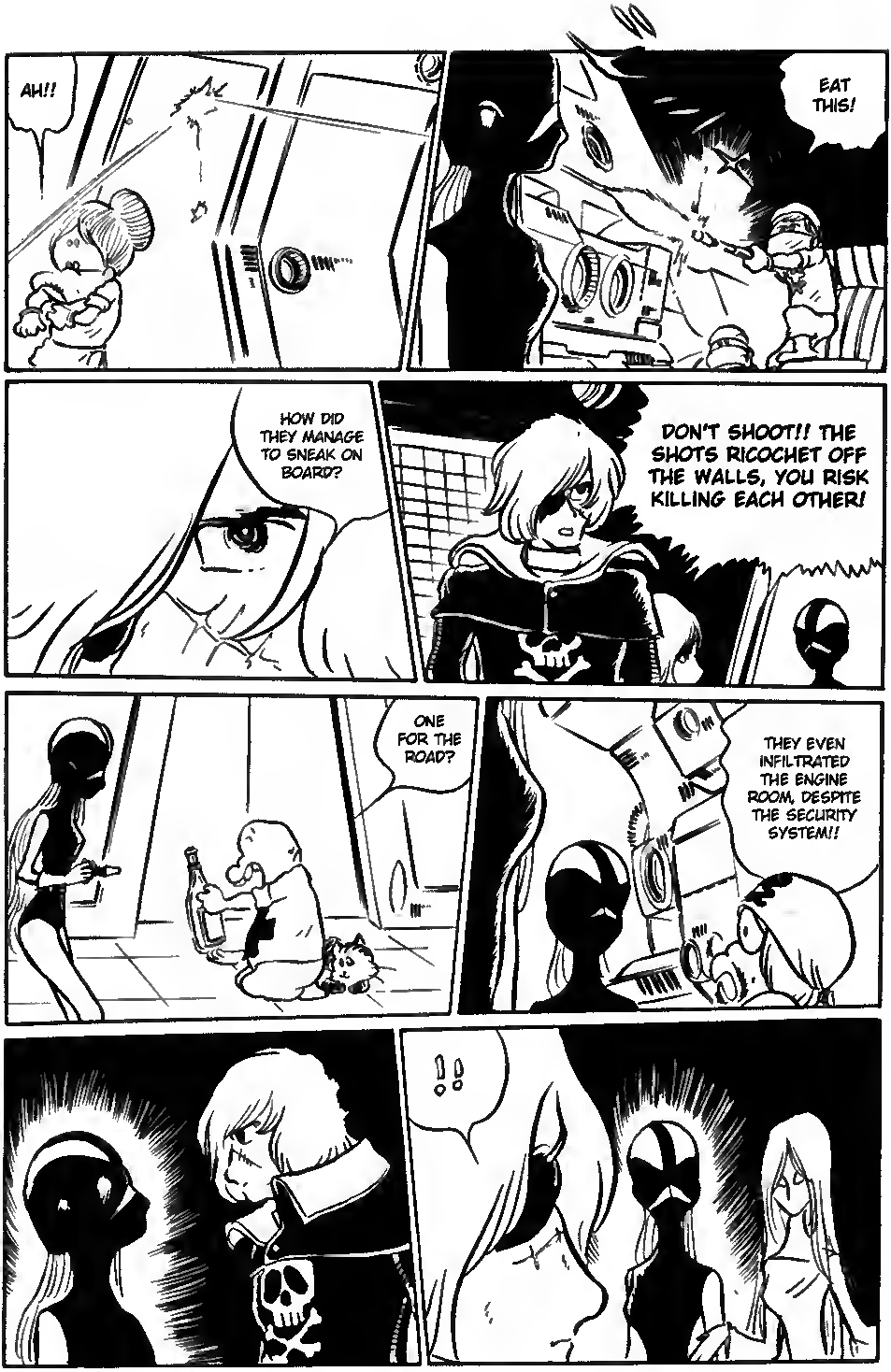
I REALLY HAVE THE IMPRESSION OF STANDING IN THE HEART OF A STUPENDOUS LIVING ORGANISM...
EVEN IF THERE'S NO ONE TO OPERATE THEM, THIS SHIP'S NAVIGATIONAL INSTRUMENTS WORK, AND THE HELM TURNS AS IF AN INVISIBLE PERSON WAS HANDLING IT...


I'D BE WILLING TO GO TO BED IF... YOU GIVE ME A KISS!
BUT IT'S NOT HEALTHY...
DON'T HAVE THE TIME!
YOU MUST SLEEP, LIEUTENANT!
AAH! NOOO! STOOOP...
C...C'MON, THAT WAS A JOKE!
HUH?!
ALRIGHT.
I'M GOING TO BED!
ALRIGHT! ALRIGHT! I GOT IT!
I ALWAYS KEEP MY PROMISES.

WHAT IS IT?
CAPTAIN!
I THINK IT'S RATHER SOMETHING APPROACHING THE ARCADIA...
THAT'S IT! YOU'VE TRIGGERED THE ALARM WITH YOUR RUBBISH!
170,000 SPATIAL KILOMETERS? THE ARCADIA MANAGED TO DETECT IT AT SUCH A DISTANCE?
AN OBJECT EMITTING ENERGY, LOCATED 170,000 SPATIAL KM AWAY, AT STARBOARD.
THAT'S RIGHT! OUR ENERGY DETECTOR'S NEEDLE IS SPINNING LIKE CRAZY!
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S EMITTING A LOT OF ENERGY.
HOW COME IT'S ONLY THE GALLEY THAT'S NOT AUTOMATED IN THIS SHIP?
SINCE THE ALARM WOKE YOU UP, PREPARE THE RICE! C'MON! MAKE IT SNAPPY!
SLURP !!!!
WHAT COULD THAT BE, UH, MI?


SAME GOES FOR THE SAKE!
THE GALLEY IS LIKE A BABY : ONLY HUMANS CAN TAKE CARE OF IT PROPERLY!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT BA-LONEY!
?
DON'T HAVE THE TIME!
LIEUTEN-ANT!
WH.. WHO GOES THERE?!
WHA!


OH DEAR!
OH!
!!
!!
...
...


AH!!
EAT THIS!
HOW DID THEY MANAGE TO SNEAK ON BOARD?
DON'T SHOOT!! THE SHOTS RICOCHET OFF THE WALLS, YOU RISK KILLING EACH OTHER!
ONE FOR THE ROAD?
THEY EVEN INFILTRATED THE ENGINE ROOM, DESPITE THE SECURITY SYSTEM!!
!!

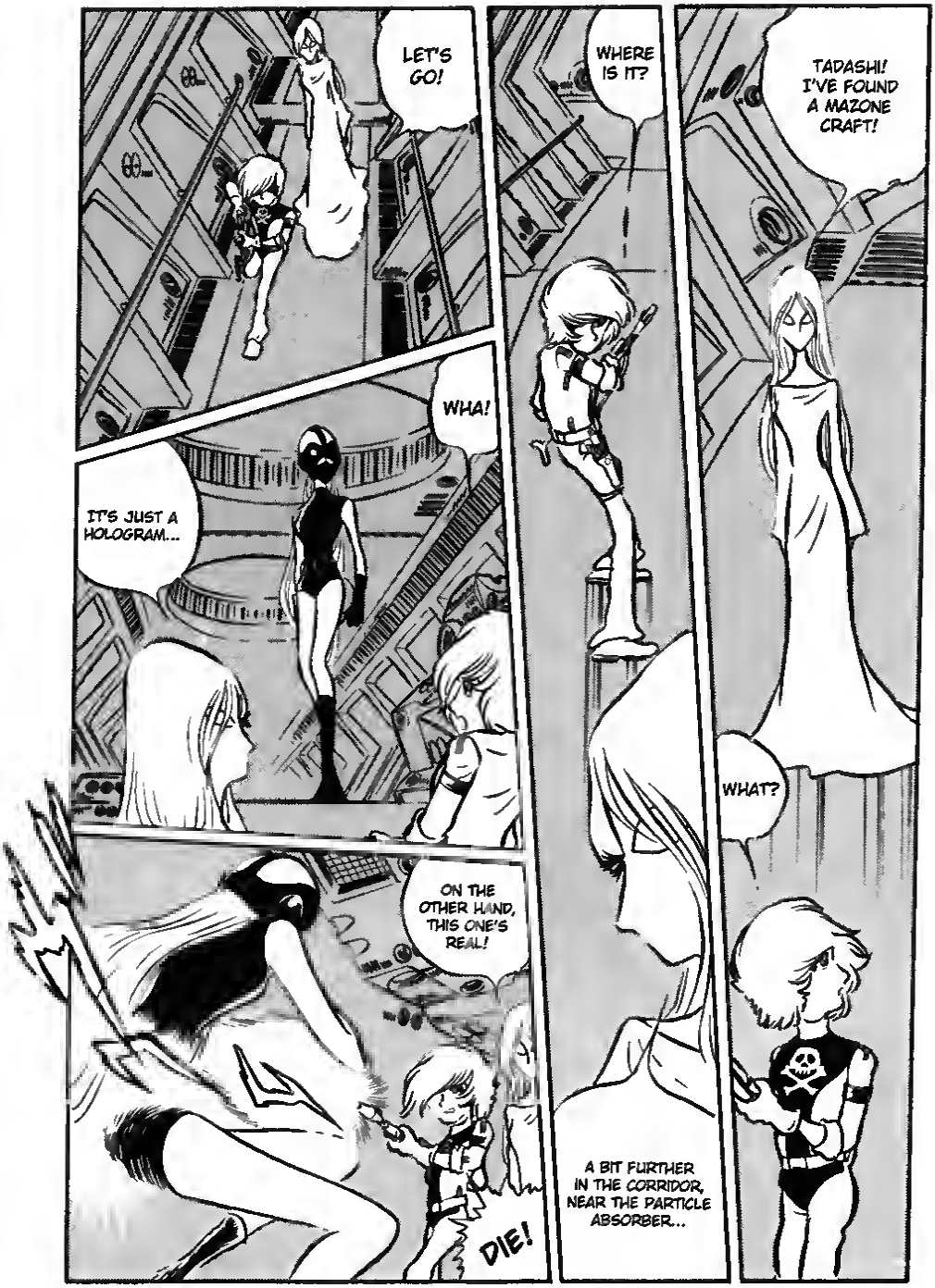
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY'RE JUST HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS.
THEY ARE "SHADOW SOLDIERS".
PROJEC-TIONS?
MIME SAYS THAT THEY'RE PROJECTIONS.
THEN, THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR.
OH YEAH? THEY'RE JUST HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS?
YOU DON'T WANNA CALL YOUR FRIENDS?
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY : "SAKE CAN'T TASTE BETTER THAN IN THE PRESENCE OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!"
YOU DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING BETTER TO SEND US?
YOU CAN GO BACK TO SLEEP WITHOUT WORRY.
NOTIFY ME WHEN IT'S WITHIN RANGE. WE'LL BLOW IT UP.
IT WOULD BE THE CRAFT THAT TRANSPORTS THE HOLOGRAPHIC DEVICE, THAT PRODUCES THE ENERGY WE'VE DETECTED...

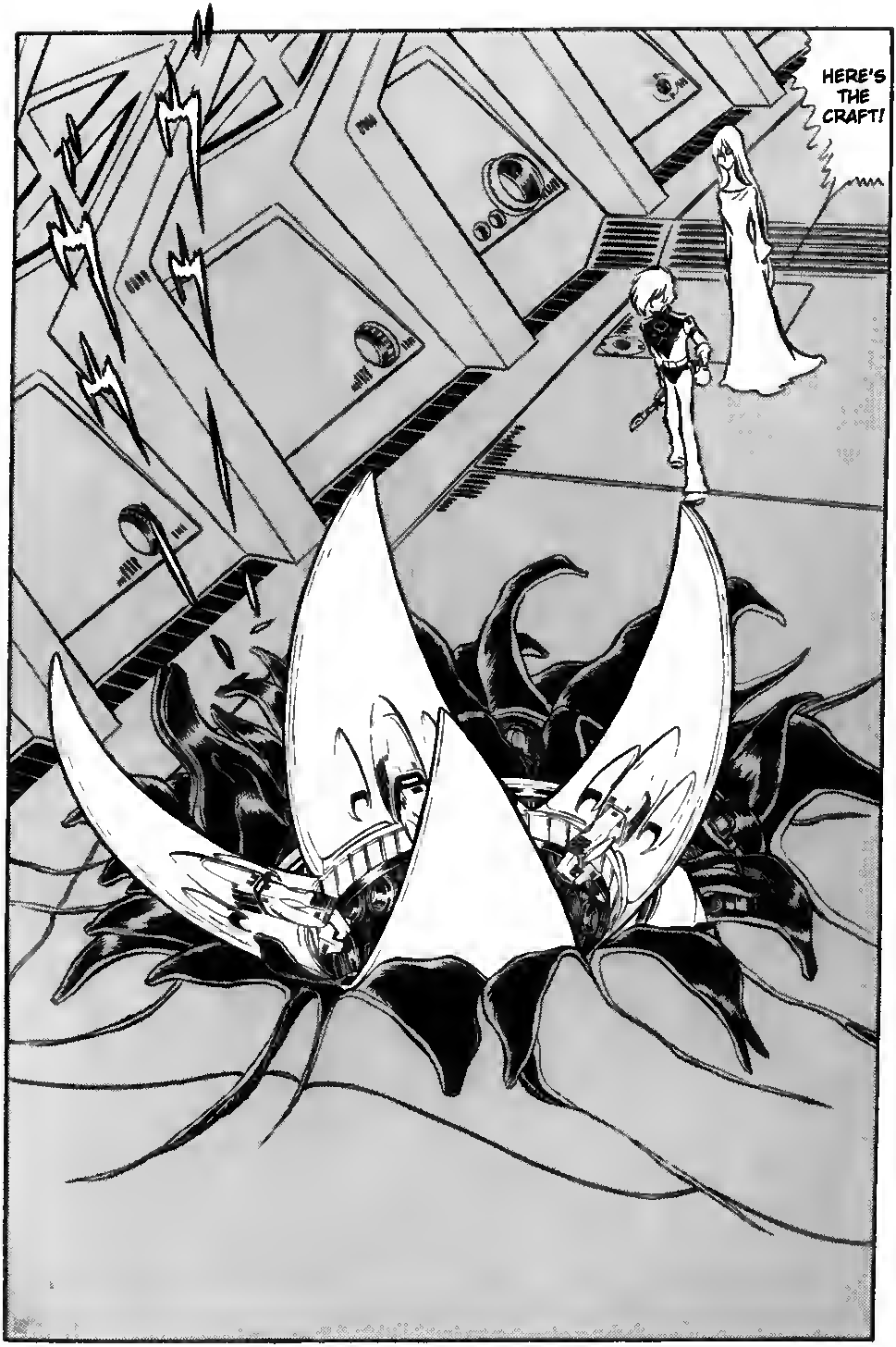
I'D BE EVEN MORE DELIGHTED IF YOU COULD SING OR DANCE!
I'M RELIEVED TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE JUST A HOLOGRAM!

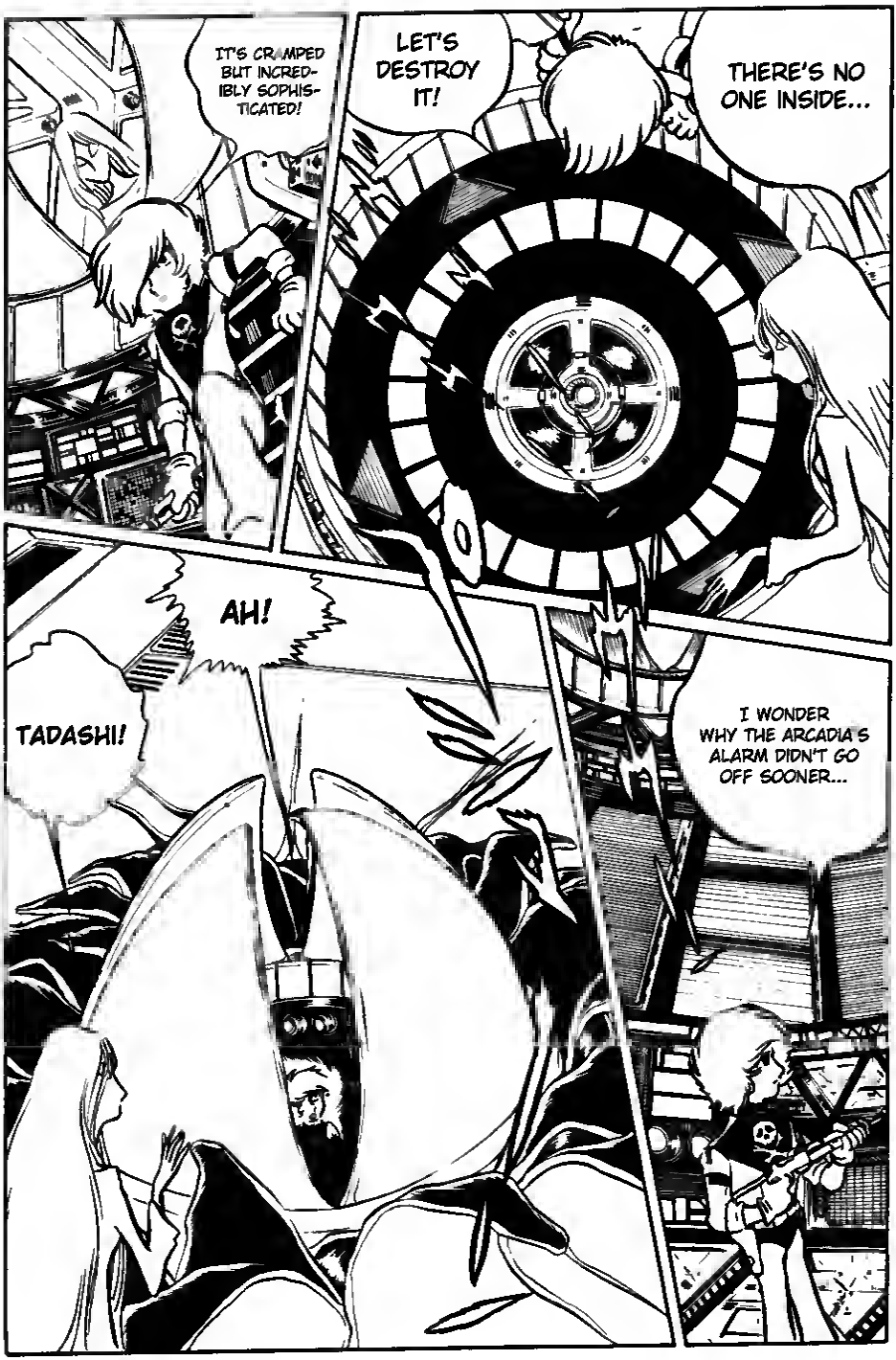
HOLOGRAMS... I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE UP TO, BUT... THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

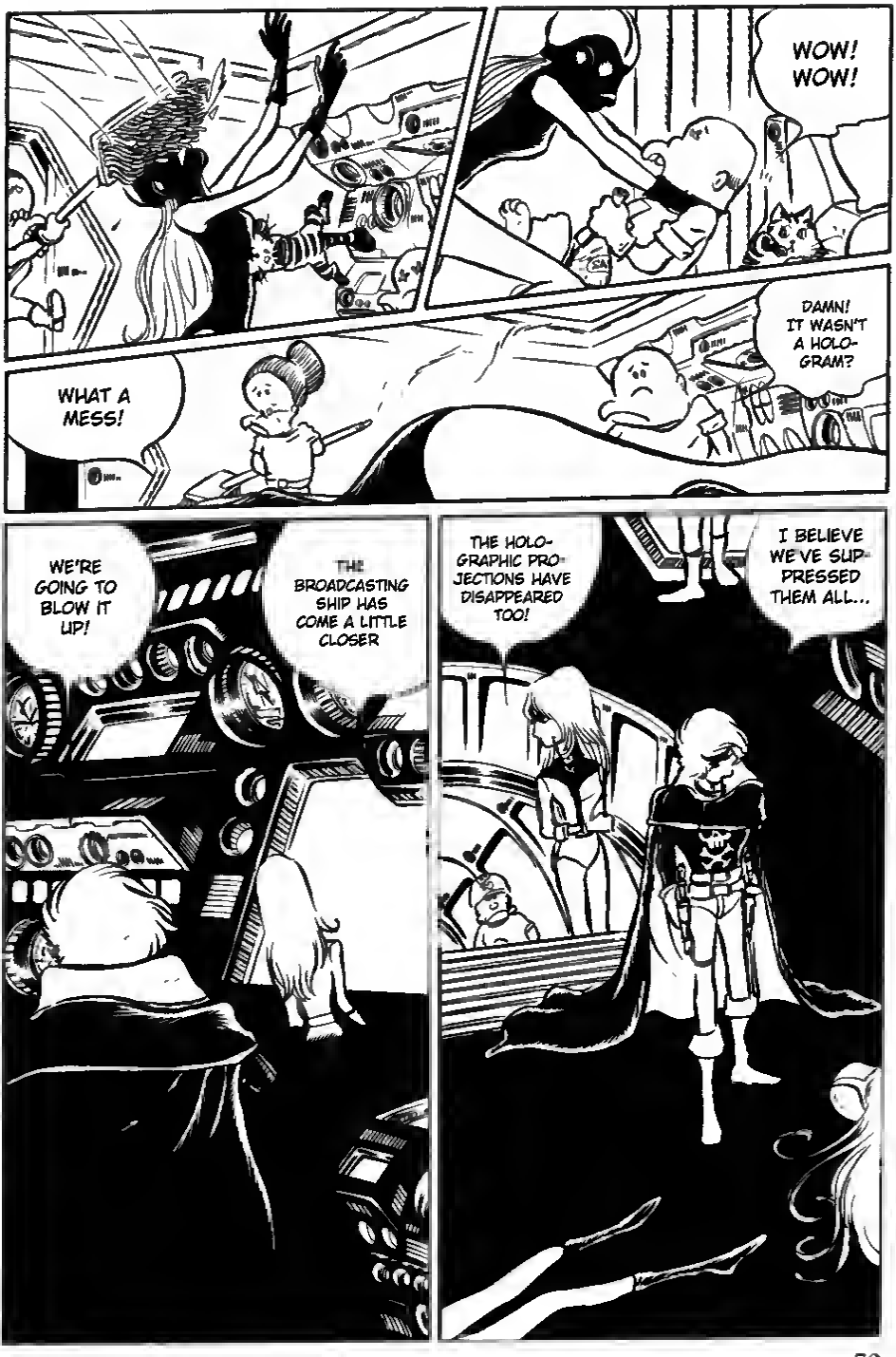
HOLOGRAMS... I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE UP TO, BUT... THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

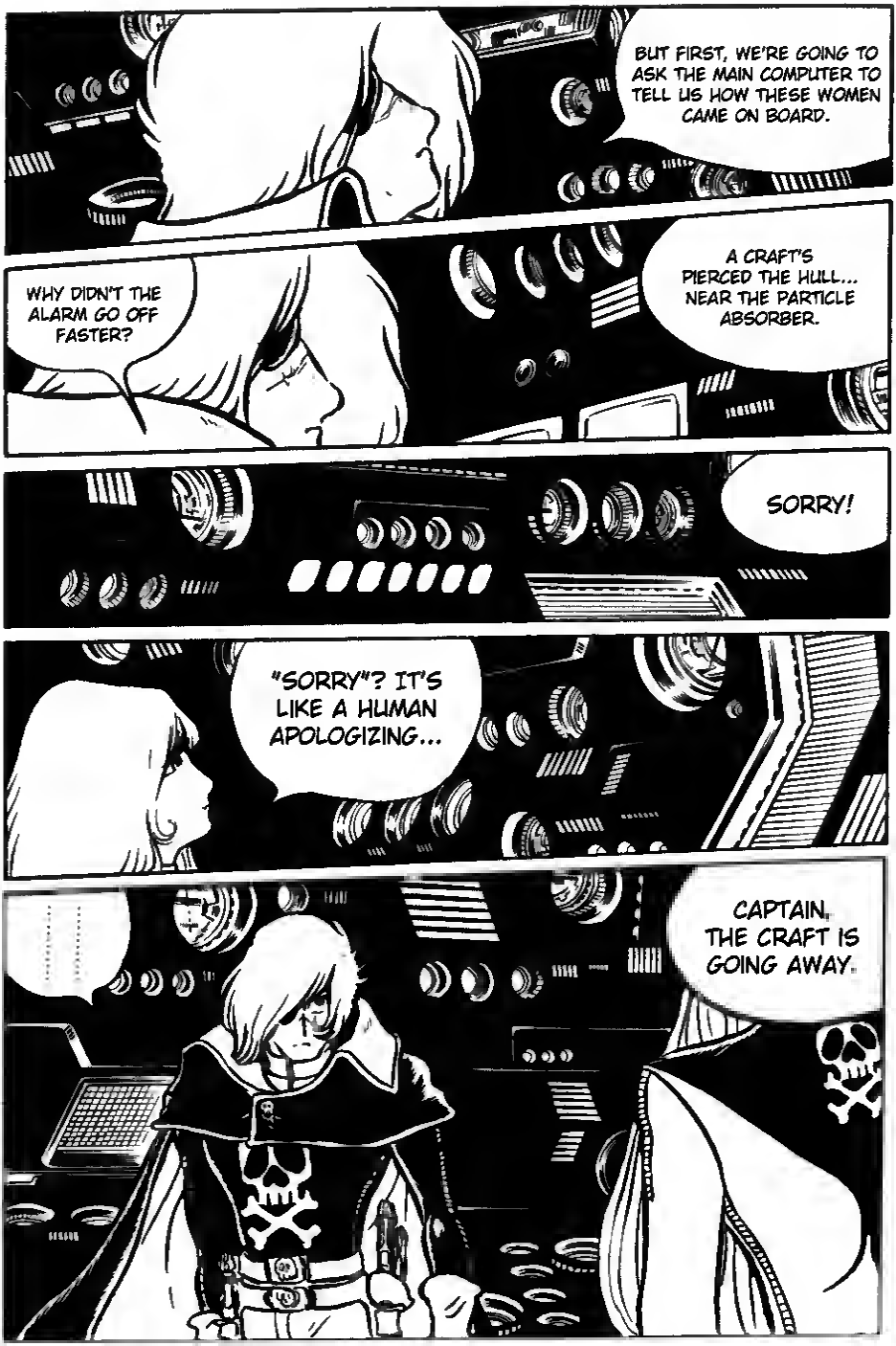
OH! THIS ONE IS NO PROJEC-TION!
THE ALARM AGAIN?
SOME OF THEM AREN'T HOLOGRAMS! SOME REAL MAZONE HAVE INFILTRATED THE SHIP!


TADASHI! I'VE FOUND A MAZONE CRAFT!
WHERE IS IT?
LET'S GO!
WHAT?
A BIT FURTHER IN THE CORRIDOR, NEAR THE PARTICLE ABSORBER...
WHA!
IT'S JUST A HOLOGRAM...
ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS ONE'S REAL!
DIE!

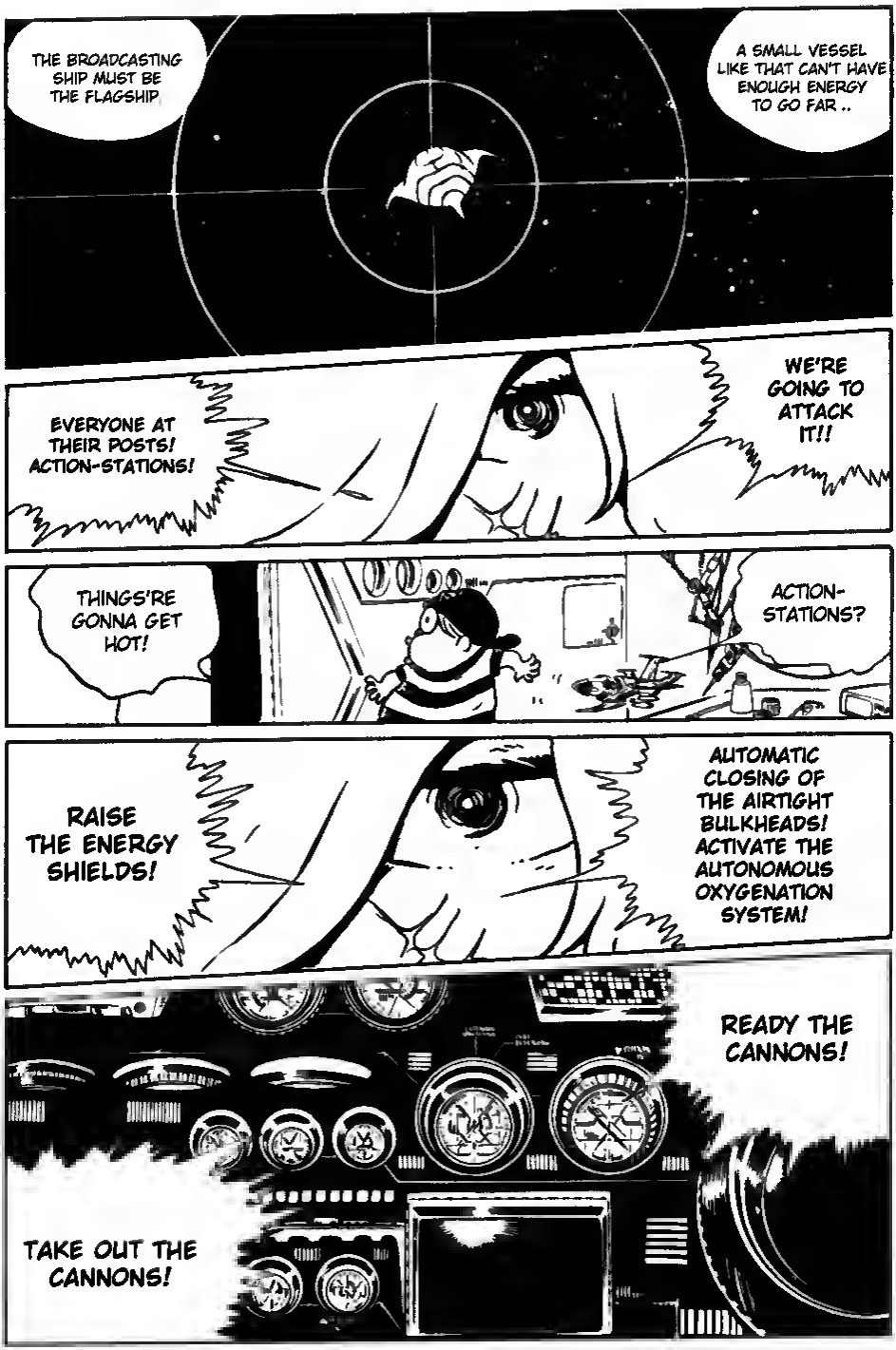

HERE'S THE CRAFT!

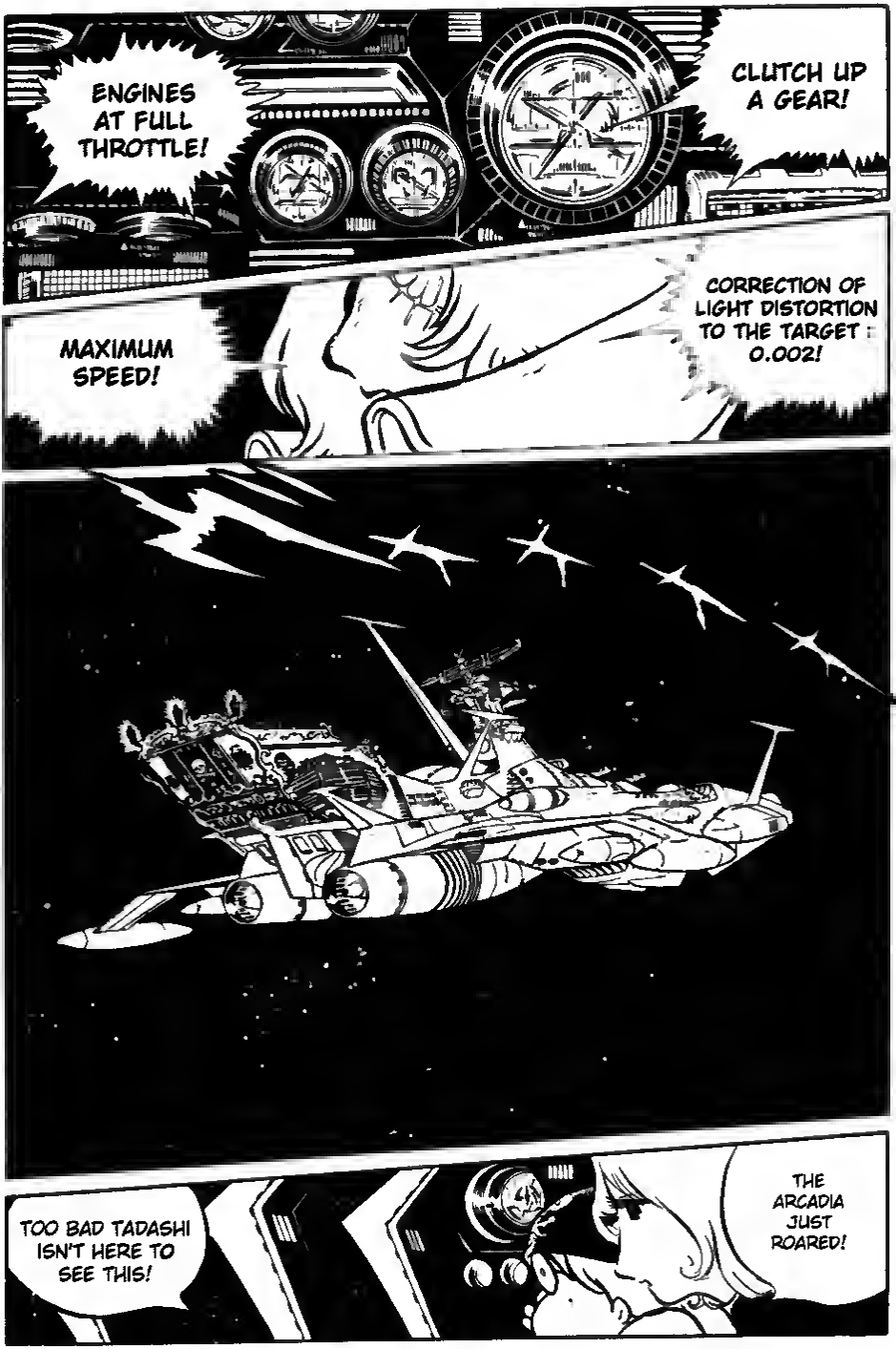

IT'S CRAMPED BUT INCREDIBLY SOPHISTICATED!
LET'S DESTROY IT!
THERE'S NO ONE INSIDE...
AH!
TADASHI!
I WONDER WHY THE ARCADIA'S ALARM DIDN'T GO OFF SOONER...

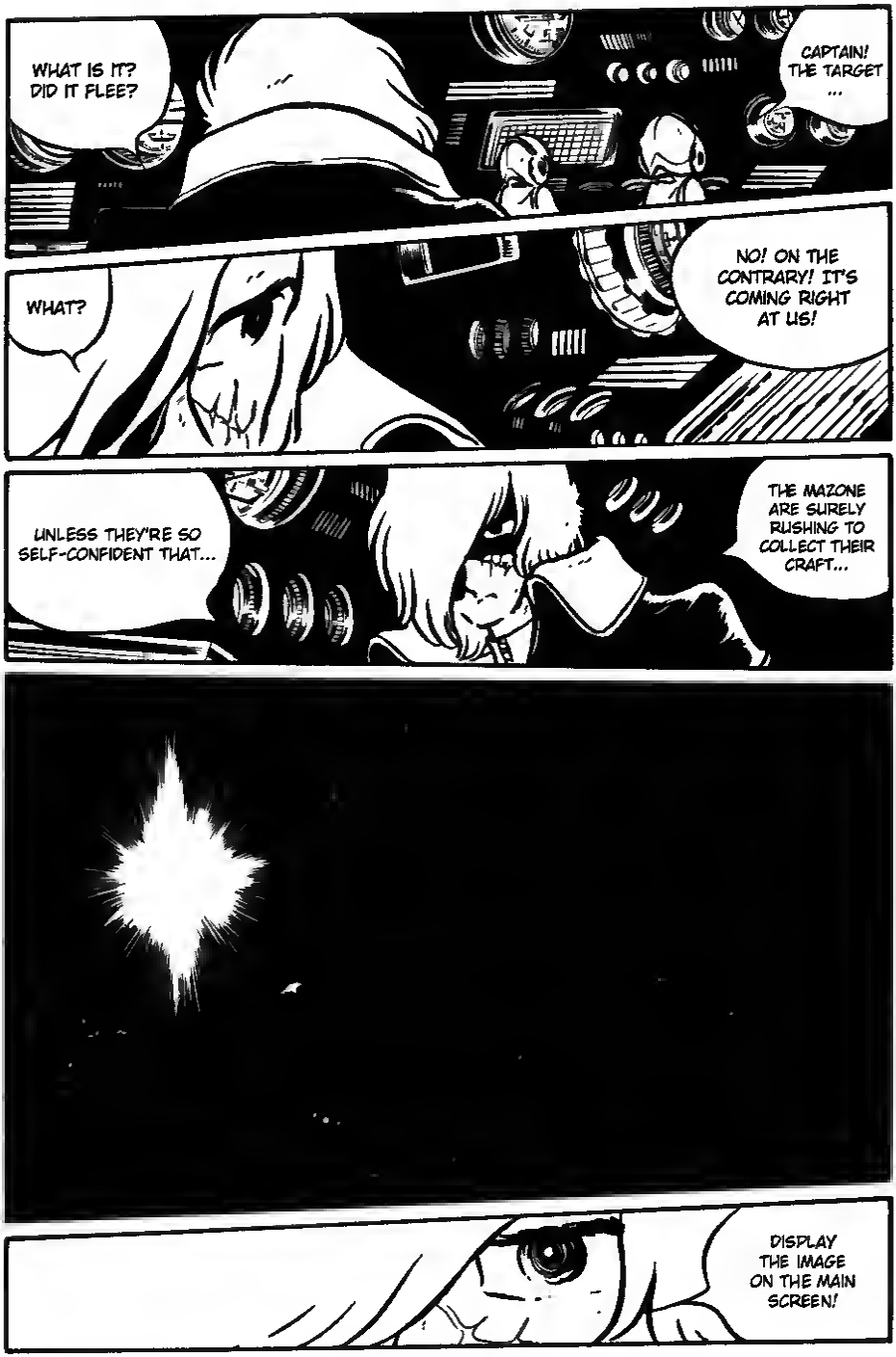

WOW! WOW!
DAMN! IT WASN'T A HOLO-GRAM?
WHAT A MESS!
WE'RE GOING TO BLOW IT UP!
THE BROADCASTING SHIP HAS COME A LITTLE CLOSER
THE HOLO-GRAPHIC PRO-JECTIONS HAVE DISAPPEARED TOO!
I BELIEVE WE'VE SUP-PRESSED THEM ALL...

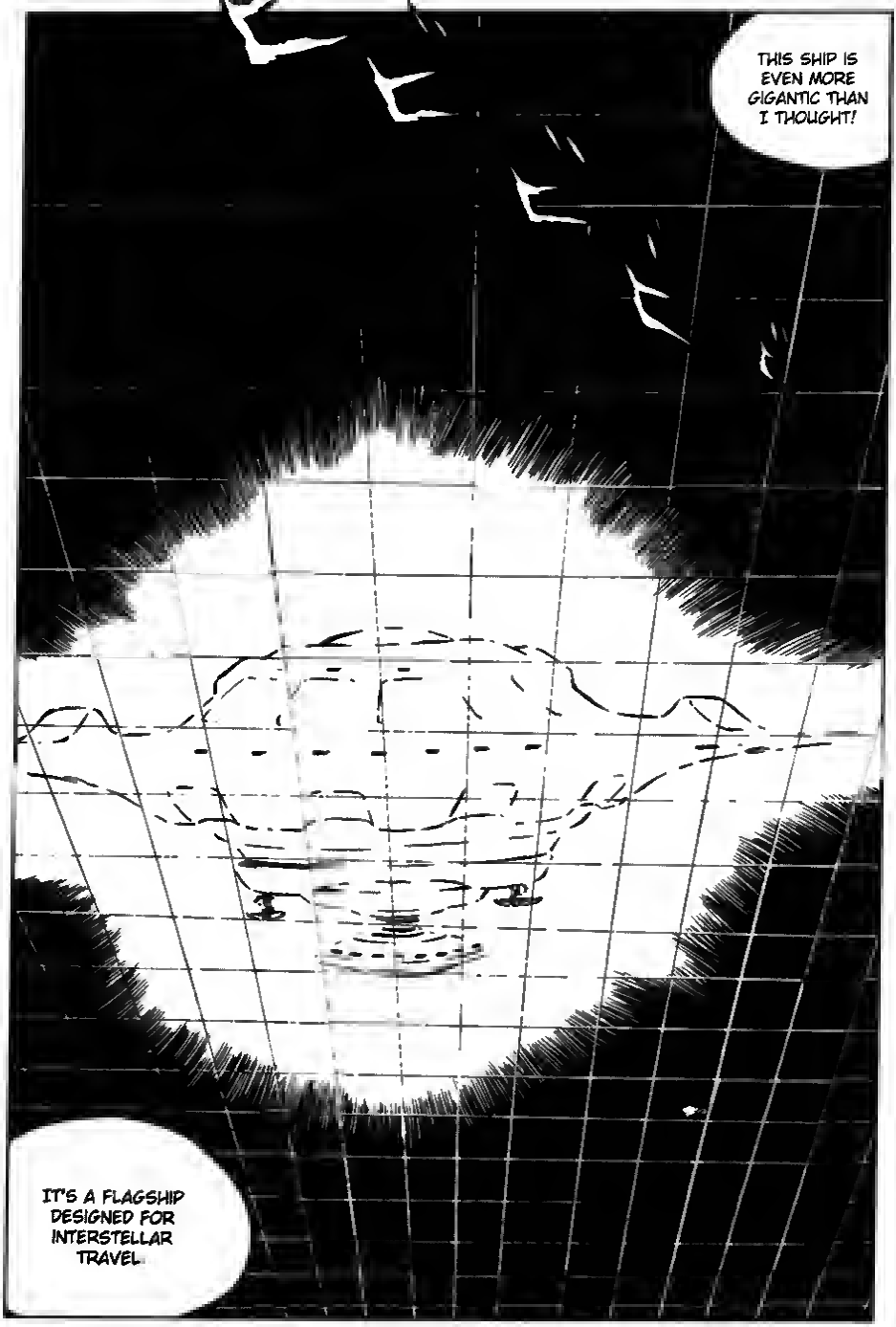

BUT FIRST, WE'RE GOING TO ASK THE MAIN COMPUTER TO TELL US HOW THESE WOMEN CAME ON BOARD.
A CRAFT'S PIERCED THE HULL... NEAR THE PARTICLE ABSORBER.
WHY DIDN'T THE ALARM GO OFF FASTER?
SORRY!
"SORRY"? IT'S LIKE A HUMAN APOLOGIZING...
CAPTAIN, THE CRAFT IS GOING AWAY.

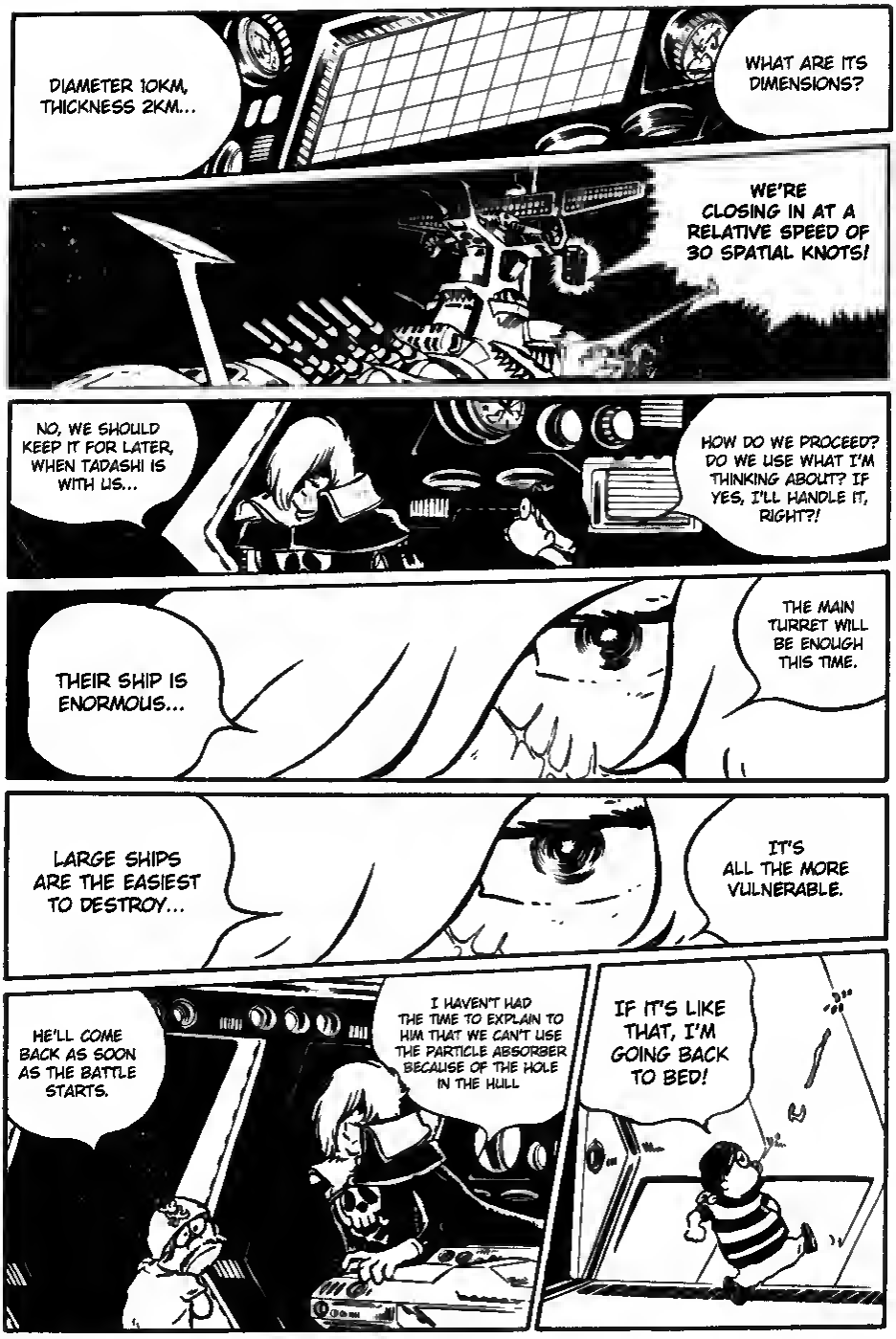
STAY CALM.... AND SIT THERE!
AIM ADJUSTED.
DESTROY IT!
WHAT?
NO! HARLOCK! TADASHI'S ABOARD THIS CRAFT!
TADASHI!
I'M ENTIRELY RESPONSIBLE...
HE ENTERED THE CRAFT IN ORDER TO DESTROY IT, BUT THE HATCH CLOSED ITSELF...
IT'S HEADING STRAIGHT TO THE BROADCASTING SHIP...
WHAT'S ITS TRAJECTORY?

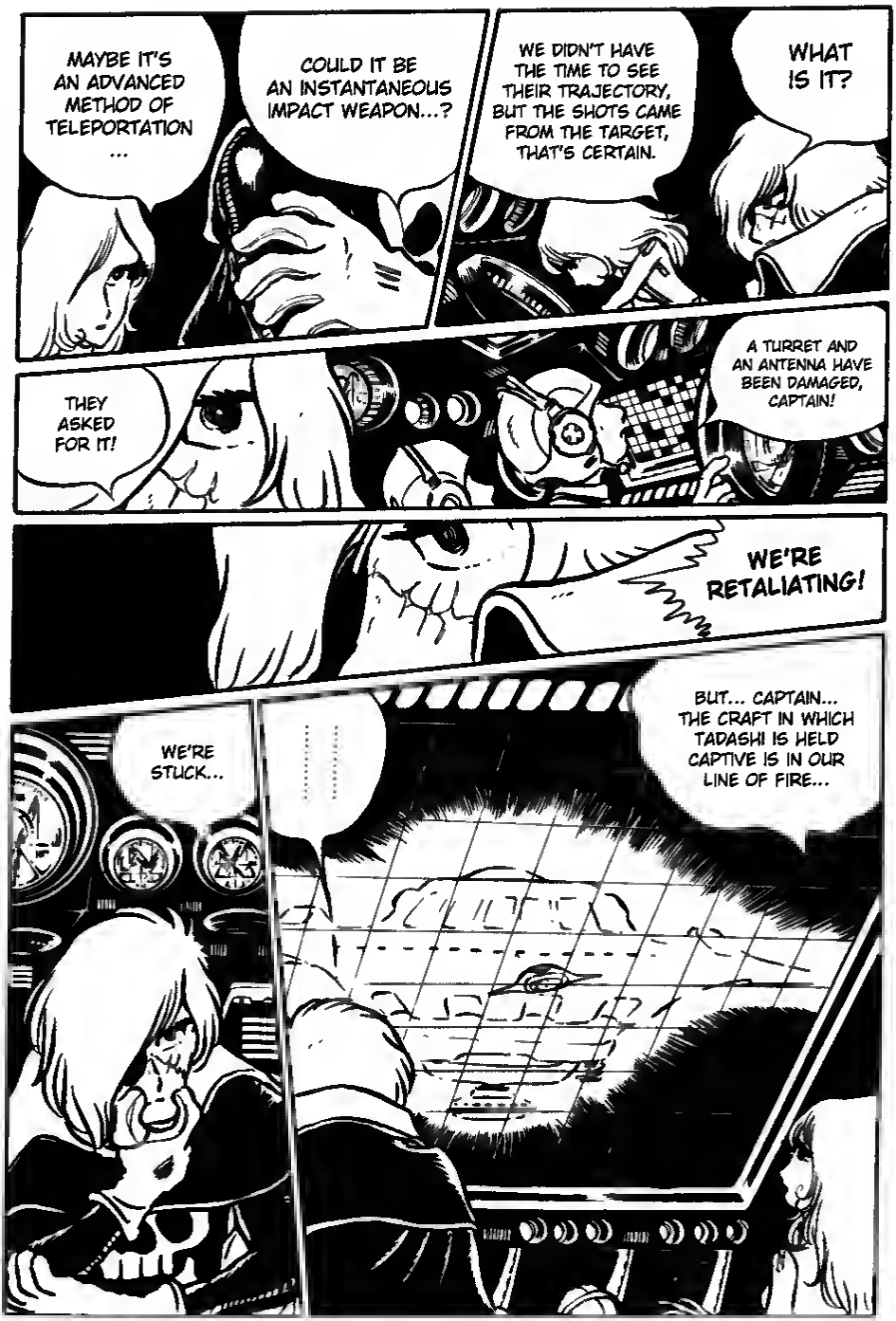

THE BROADCASTING SHIP MUST BE THE FLAGSHIP
A SMALL VESSEL LIKE THAT CAN'T HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY TO GO FAR ..
EVERYONE AT THEIR POSTS! ACTION-STATIONS!
WE'RE GOING TO ATTACK IT!!
THINGS'RE GONNA GET HOT!
ACTION-STATIONS?
RAISE THE ENERGY SHIELDS!
AUTOMATIC CLOSING OF THE AIRTIGHT BULKHEADS! ACTIVATE THE AUTONOMOUS OXYGENATION SYSTEM!
READY THE CANNONS!
TAKE OUT THE CANNONS!

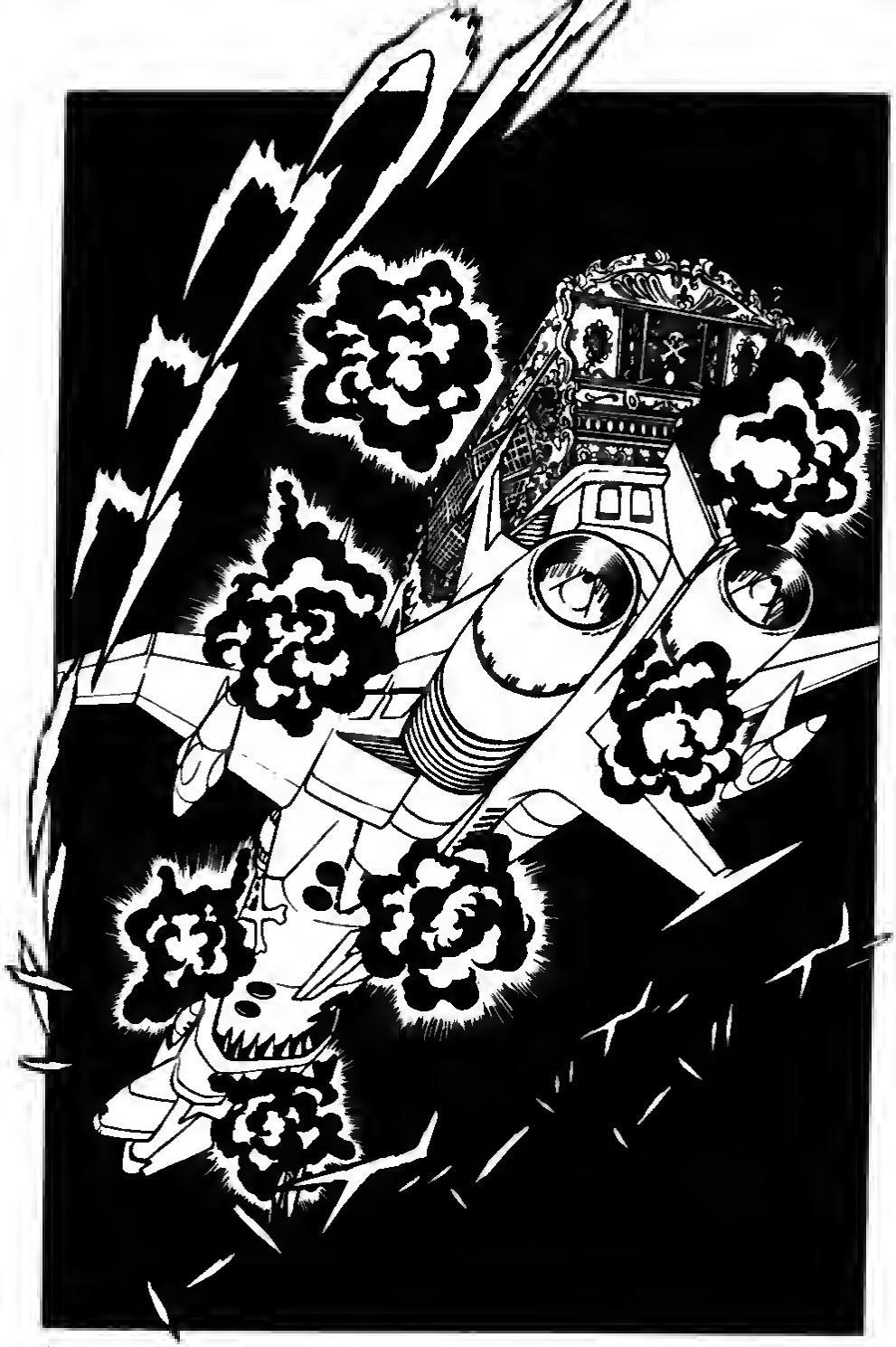

ENGINES AT FULL THROTTLE!
CLUTCH UP A GEAR!
MAXIMUM SPEED!
CORRECTION OF LIGHT DISTORTION TO THE TARGET : 0.002!
TOO BAD TADASHI ISN'T HERE TO SEE THIS!
THE ARCADIA JUST ROARED!


WHAT IS IT? DID IT FLEE?
CAPTAIN! THE TARGET ...
WHAT?
NO! ON THE CONTRARY! IT'S COMING RIGHT AT US!
UNLESS THEY'RE SO SELF-CONFIDENT THAT...
THE MAZONE ARE SURELY RUSHING TO COLLECT THEIR CRAFT...
DISPLAY THE IMAGE ON THE MAIN SCREEN!


THIS SHIP IS EVEN MORE GIGANTIC THAN I THOUGHT!
IT'S A FLAGSHIP DESIGNED FOR INTERSTELLAR TRAVEL.

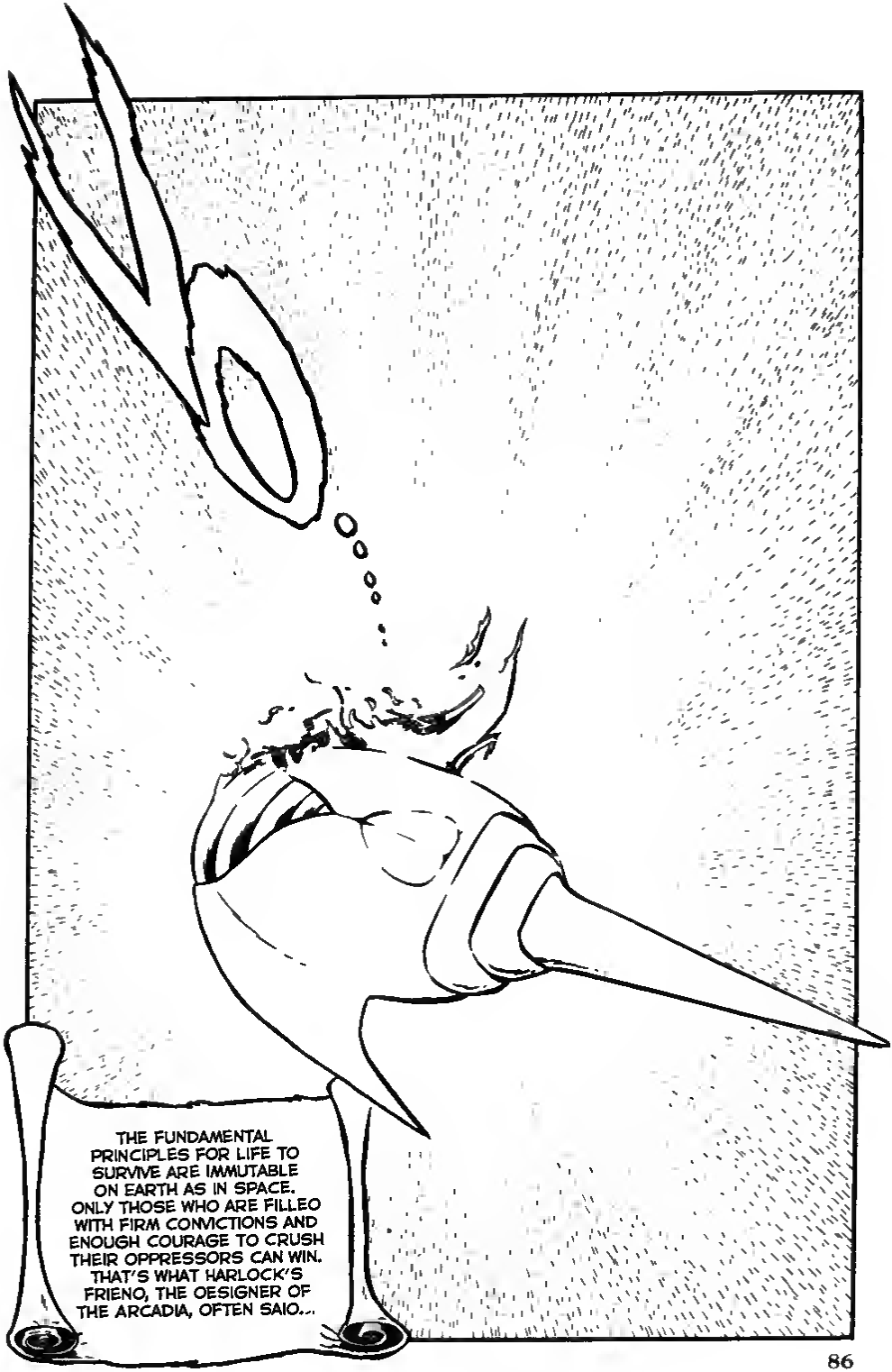

DIAMETER 10KM, THICKNESS 2KM...
WHAT ARE ITS DIMENSIONS?
WE'RE CLOSING IN AT A RELATIVE SPEED OF 30 SPATIAL KNOTS!
NO, WE SHOULD KEEP IT FOR LATER, WHEN TADASHI IS WITH US...
HOW DO WE PROCEED? DO WE USE WHAT I'M THINKING ABOUT? IF YES, I'LL HANDLE IT, RIGHT?!
THEIR SHIP IS ENORMOUS...
THE MAIN TURRET WILL BE ENOUGH THIS TIME.
LARGE SHIPS ARE THE EASIEST TO DESTROY...
IT'S ALL THE MORE VULNERABLE.
HE'LL COME BACK AS SOON AS THE BATTLE STARTS.
I HAVEN'T HAD THE TIME TO EXPLAIN TO HIM THAT WE CAN'T USE THE PARTICLE ABSORBER BECAUSE OF THE HOLE IN THE HULL
IF IT'S LIKE THAT, I'M GOING BACK TO BED!


MAYBE IT'S AN ADVANCED METHOD OF TELEPORTATION ...
COULD IT BE AN INSTANTANEOUS IMPACT WEAPON...?
WE DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME TO SEE THEIR TRAJECTORY, BUT THE SHOTS CAME FROM THE TARGET, THAT'S CERTAIN.
WHAT IS IT?
THEY ASKED FOR IT!
A TURRET AND AN ANTENNA HAVE BEEN DAMAGED, CAPTAIN!
WE'RE RETALIATING!
WE'RE STUCK...
.....
BUT... CAPTAIN... THE CRAFT IN WHICH TADASHI IS HELD CAPTIVE IS IN OUR LINE OF FIRE...



HOW DOES HE EXPECT TO WIN IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO SACRIFICE SOME LIVES? HARLOCK IS JUST A HUMAN LIKE THE OTHERS, HE HAS THE SAME WEAK SPOT.
HE MUST REALLY CARE FOR ME.
HARLOCK DOESN'T DARE TO SHOOT.
THAT'S ENOUGH!
DON'T DO THAT!!

NOW!
OPEN
FIRE!

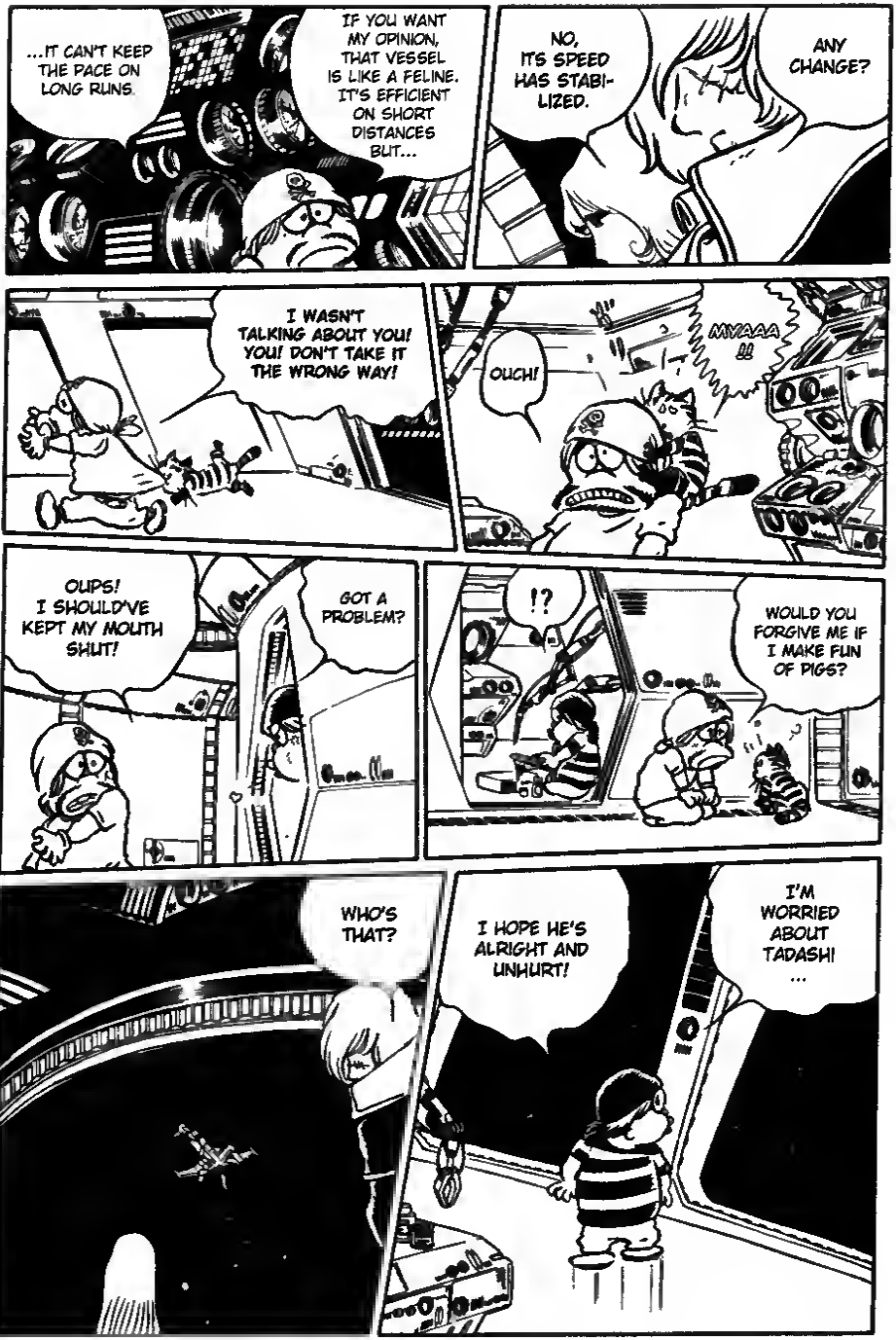

THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES FOR LIFE TO SURVIVE ARE IMMUTABLE ON EARTH AS IN SPACE. ONLY THOSE WHO ARE FILLED WITH FIRM CONVICTIONS AND ENOUGH COURAGE TO CRUSH THEIR OPPRESSORS CAN WIN. THAT'S WHAT HARLOCK'S FRIEND, THE DESIGNER OF THE ARCADIA, OFTEN SAID...

THEY'VE BEEN TRIGGERED BY THE EXPLOSION OF THE FLAGSHIP : IT WAS LOADED WITH ENERGY.
WHAT NOW? SOME POWERFUL GRAVITATIONAL WAVES ARE RAGING!

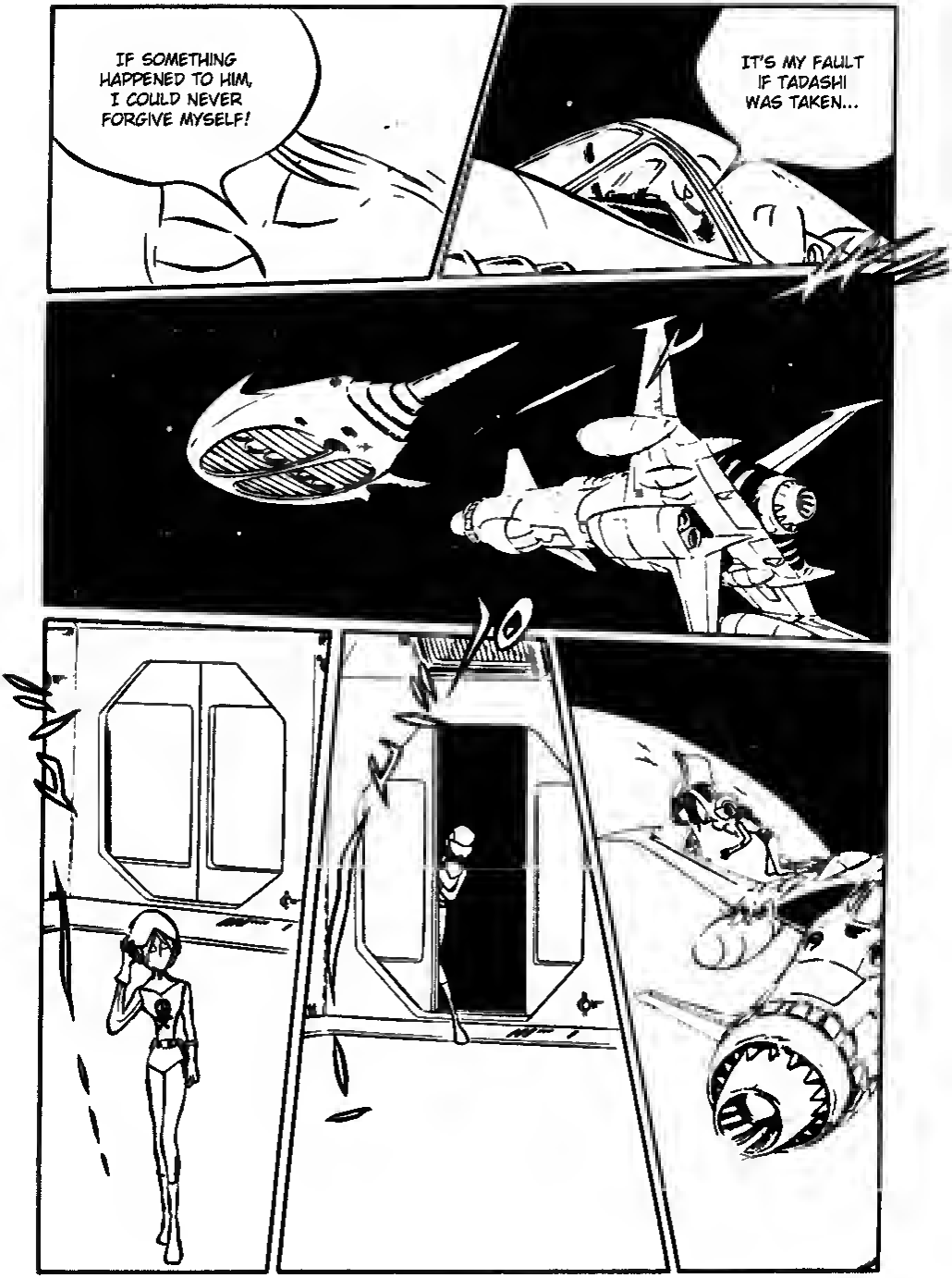
THE CRAFT TADASHI'S LOCKED IN MANAGED TO FLEE OUTSIDE OF THE DEFLAGRATION'S RANGE ! IT HAS MORE THRUST THAN I EXPECTED FORTUNATELY...

J''
J''
J''
J''

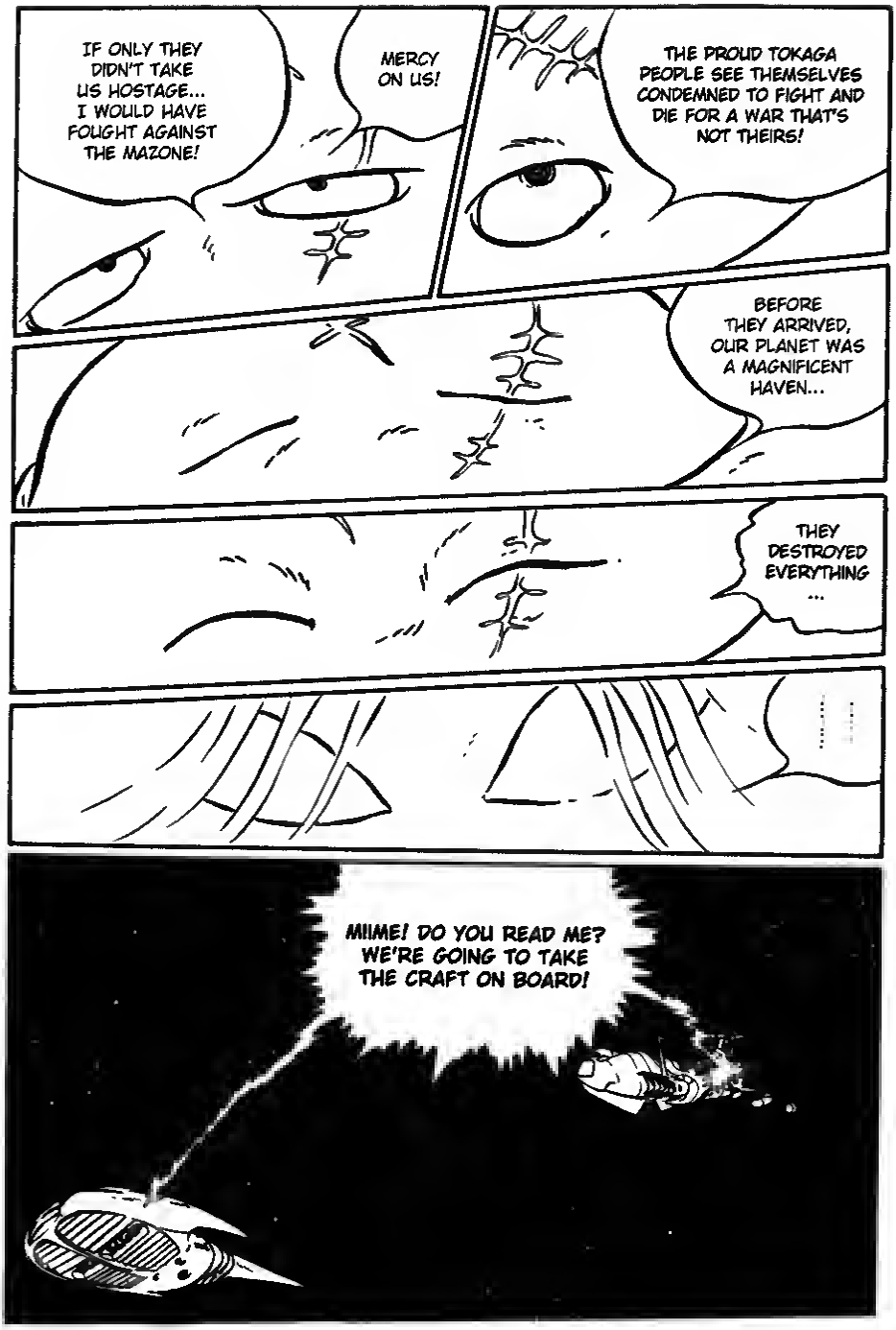
WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THE PRESSURIZATION SYSTEM HASN'T BEEN AFFECTED, ELSE .
IT MUST HAVE SUFFERED SOME DAMAGES DUE TO THE EXPLOSION.
BUT, IT SEEMS IT'S LOSING ENERGY, CAPTAIN!
ABOUT THE SAME AS OURS.
WHAT'S IT'S SPEED?
INCREASE THE ENGINES' SPEED BY ONE PERCENT!
IMPRESSIVE FOR SUCH A SMALL VESSEL...
REALLY, THIS IS A VERY ADVANCED CRAFT...
THE CRAFT ACCELERATED TOO!

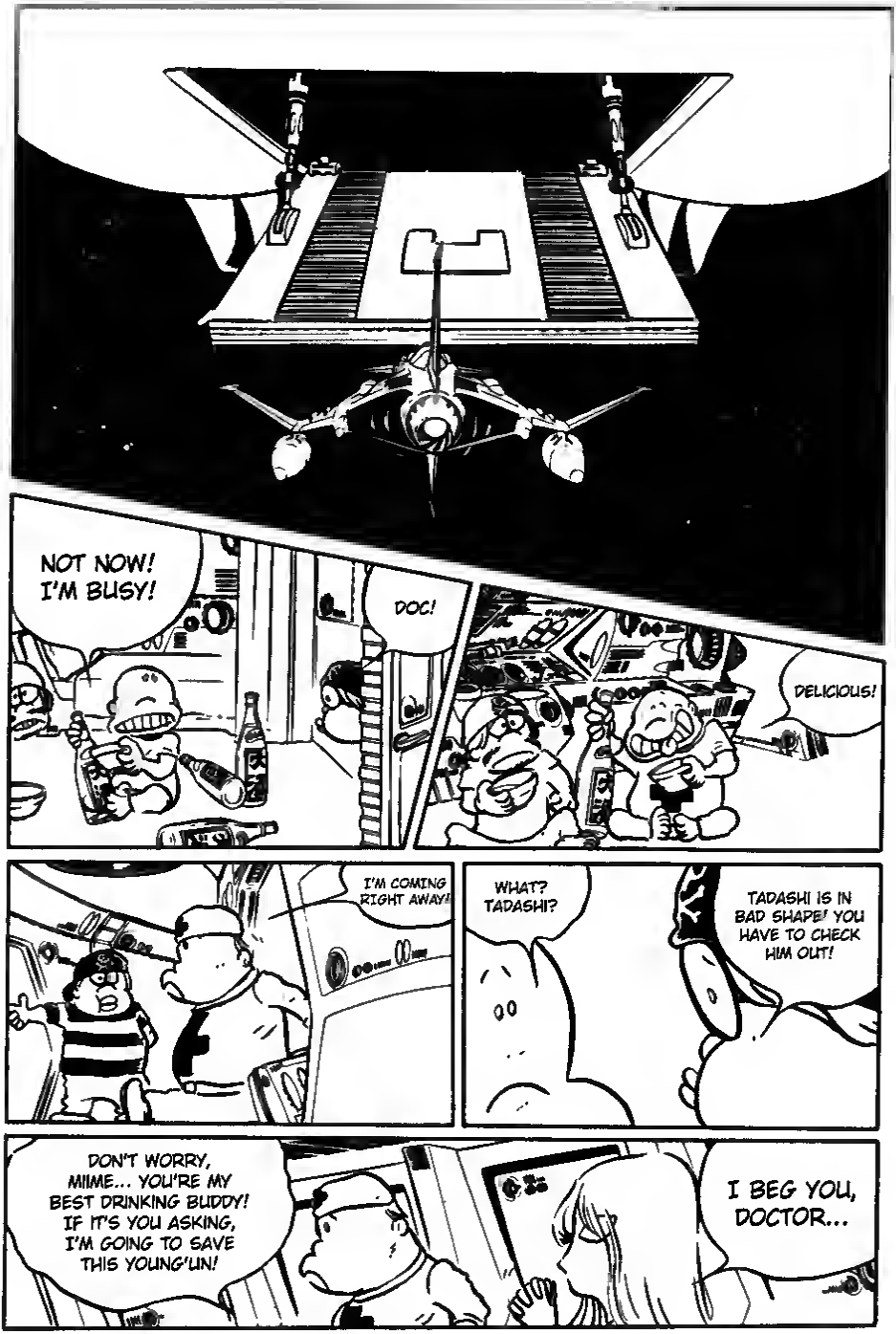

...IT CAN'T KEEP THE PACE ON LONG RUNS.
IF YOU WANT MY OPINION, THAT VESSEL IS LIKE A FELINE. IT'S EFFICIENT ON SHORT DISTANCES BUT...
NO, IT'S SPEED HAS STABILIZED.
ANY CHANGE?
I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT YOU! YOU! DON'T TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY!
OUCH!
MYAAA !!
OUPS! I SHOULD'VE KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT!
GOT A PROBLEM?
!?
WOULD YOU FORGIVE ME IF I MAKE FUN OF PIGS?
WHO'S THAT?
I HOPE HE'S ALRIGHT AND UNHURT!
I'M WORRIED ABOUT TADASHI ...

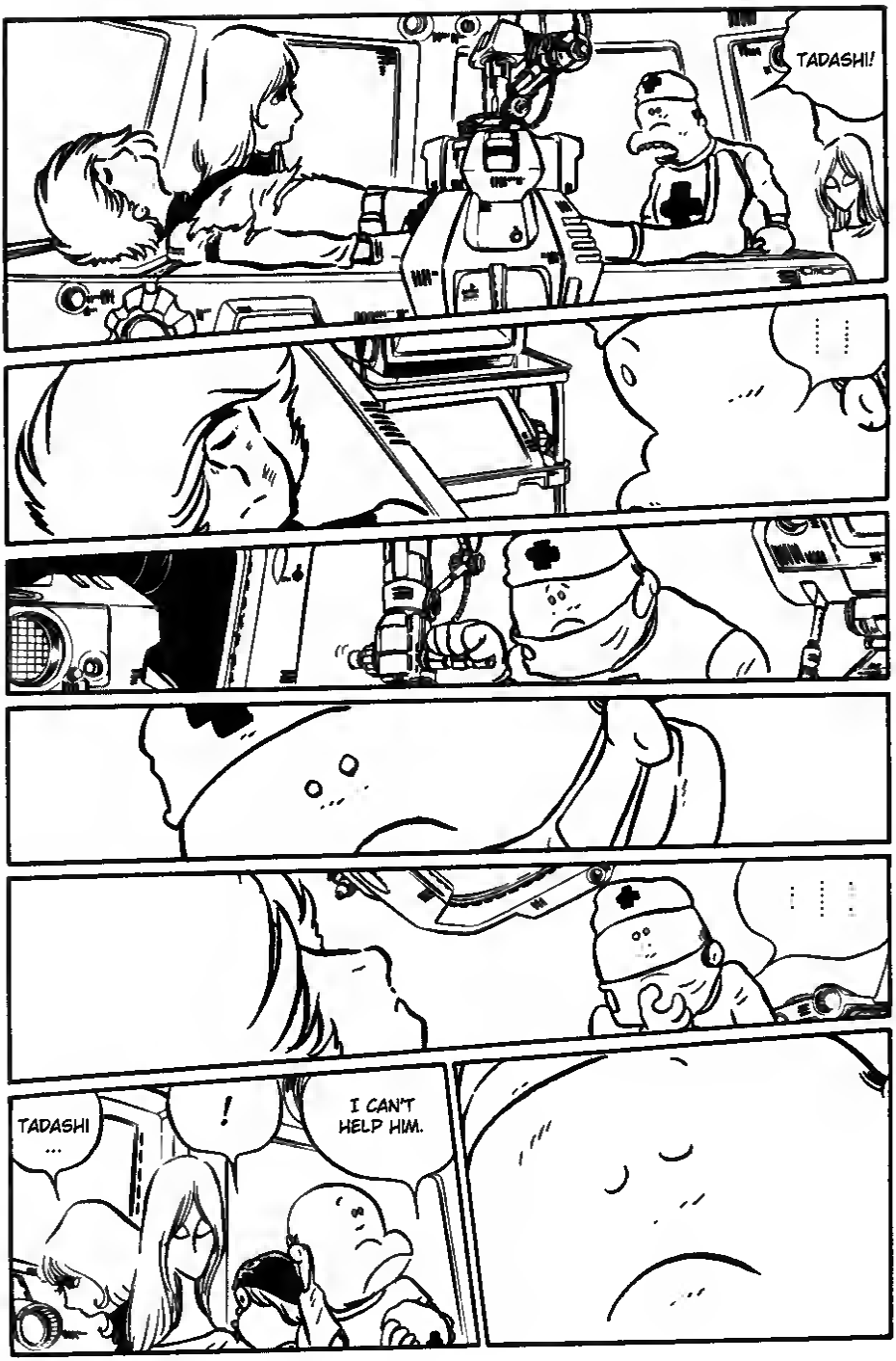
IT'S MIME! SHE WENT OUT!


IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM, I COULD NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF!
IT'S MY FAULT IF TADASHI WAS TAKEN...

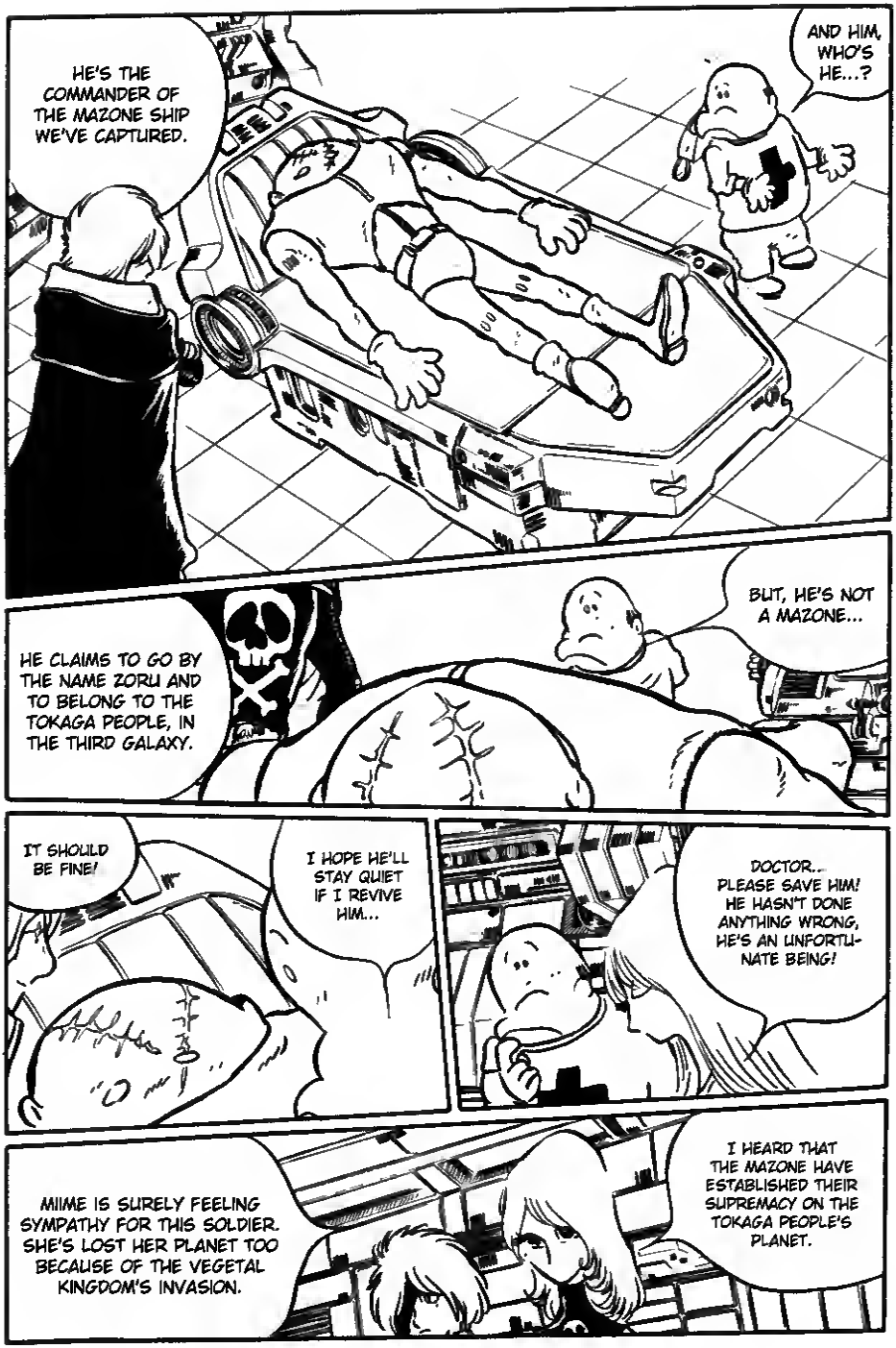
TADASHI!
NO... WAIT... I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT...
I'M RECALLING THE HIGHLIGHTS OF MY LIFE.
!!
NO, I'M A SOLDIER FROM PLANET TOKAGA OF THE THIRD GALAXY. MY NAME IS ZORU
YOU.. YOU'RE NOT A MAZONE...
HAVE MERCY... FOR A SOLDIER WHO WISHES TO SPEND HIS END PLUNGED IN HIS MEMORIES...
THOSE DAMNED VEGETAL WOMEN TREAT US LIKE SLAVES, LIKE MERE CATTLE!
THE MAZONE ARE THREATENING TO EXTERMINATE OUR PEOPLE, IF WE DON'T FIGHT FOR THEM...

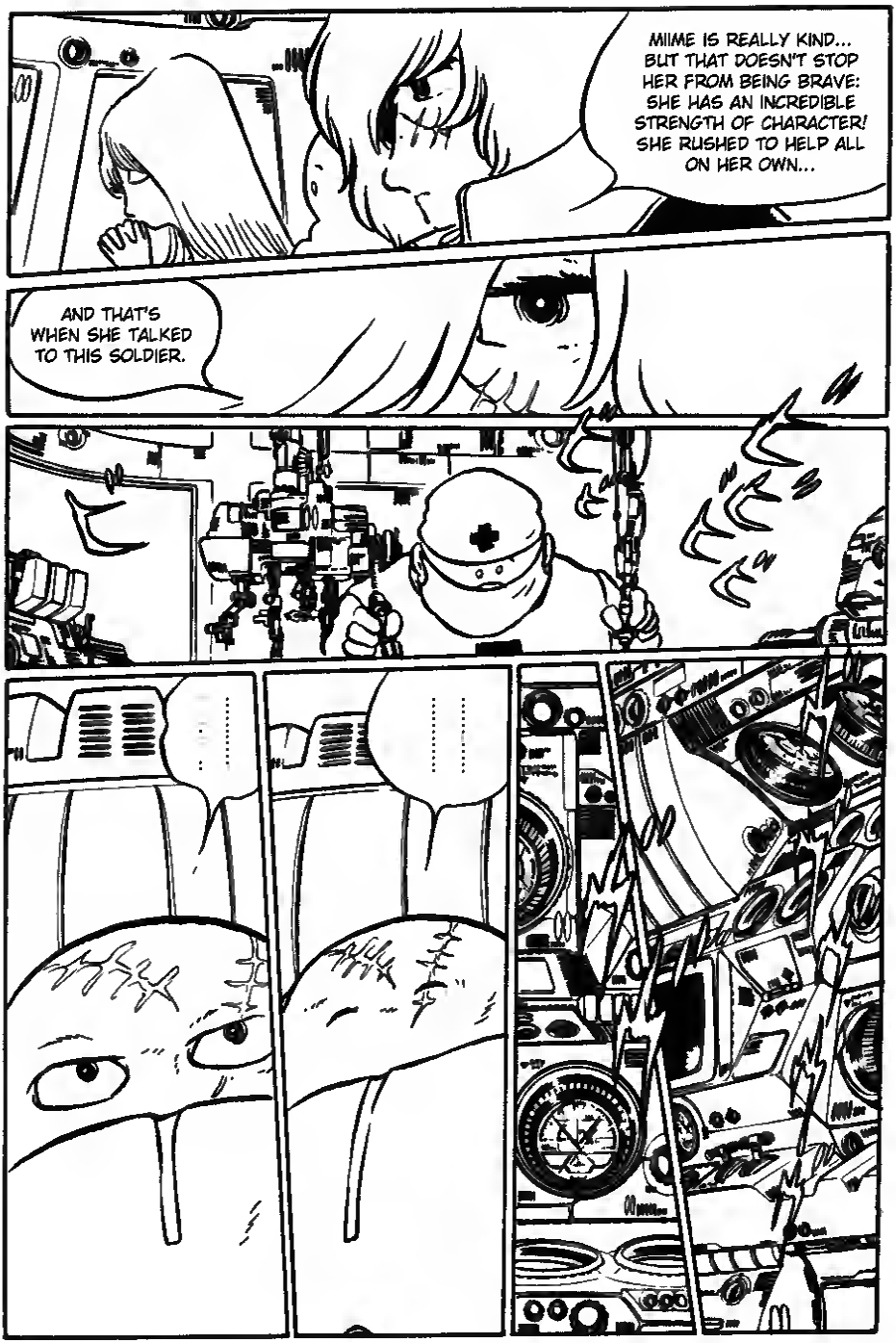

IF ONLY THEY DIDN'T TAKE US HOSTAGE... I WOULD HAVE FOUGHT AGAINST THE MAZONE!
MERCY ON US!
THE PROUD TOKAGA PEOPLE SEE THEMSELVES CONDEMNED TO FIGHT AND DIE FOR A WAR THAT'S NOT THEIRS!
BEFORE THEY ARRIVED, OUR PLANET WAS A MAGNIFICENT HAVEN...
THEY DESTROYED EVERYTHING ...
.....
MIIME! DO YOU READ ME? WE'RE GOING TO TAKE THE CRAFT ON BOARD!

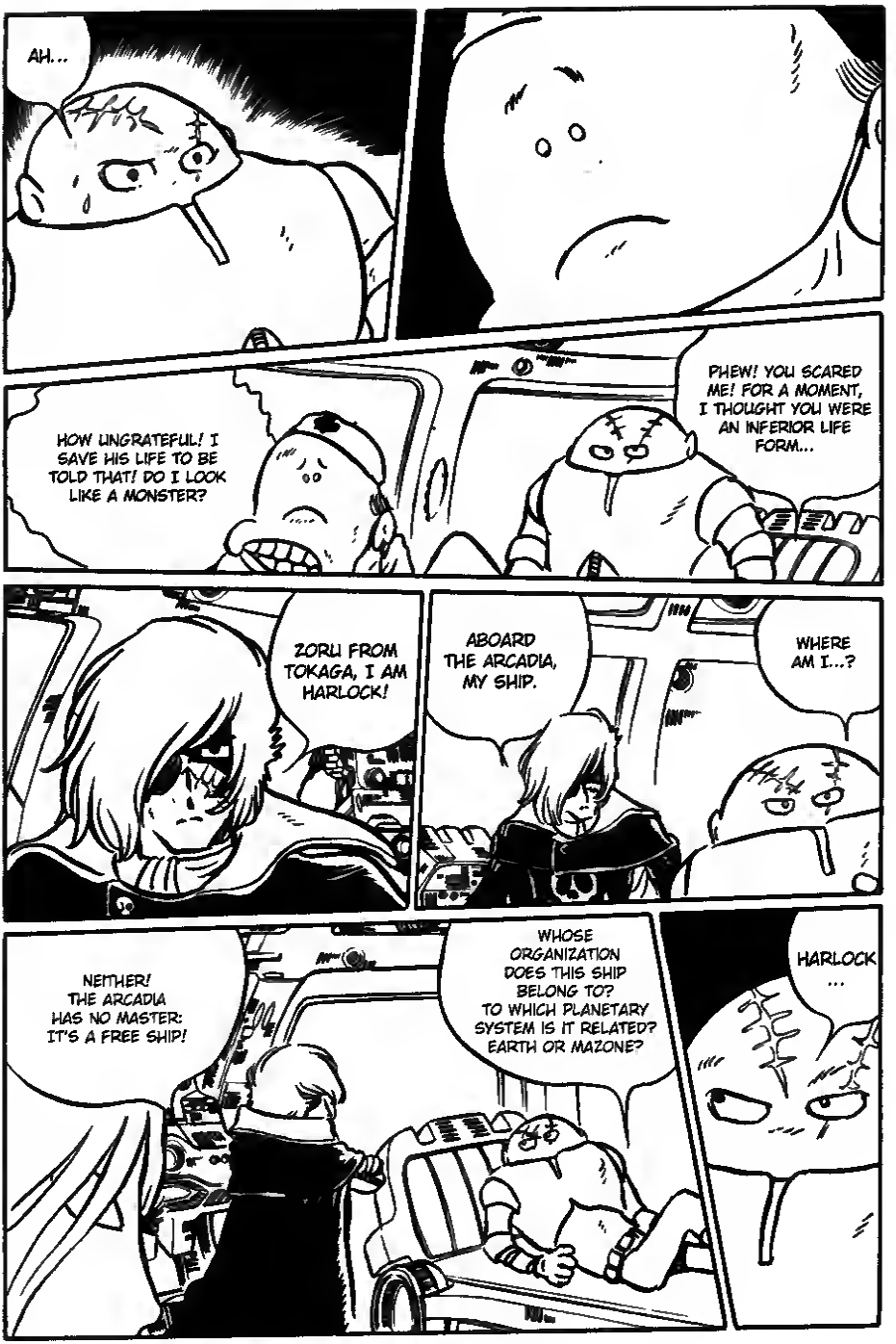

NOT NOW! I'M BUSY!
DOC!
DELICIOUS!
I'M COMING RIGHT AWAY!
WHAT? TADASHI?
TADASHI IS IN BAD SHAPE! YOU HAVE TO CHECK HIM OUT!
DON'T WORRY, MIIME... YOU'RE MY BEST DRINKING BUDDY! IF IT'S YOU ASKING, I'M GOING TO SAVE THIS YOUNG'UN!
I BEG YOU, DOCTOR...

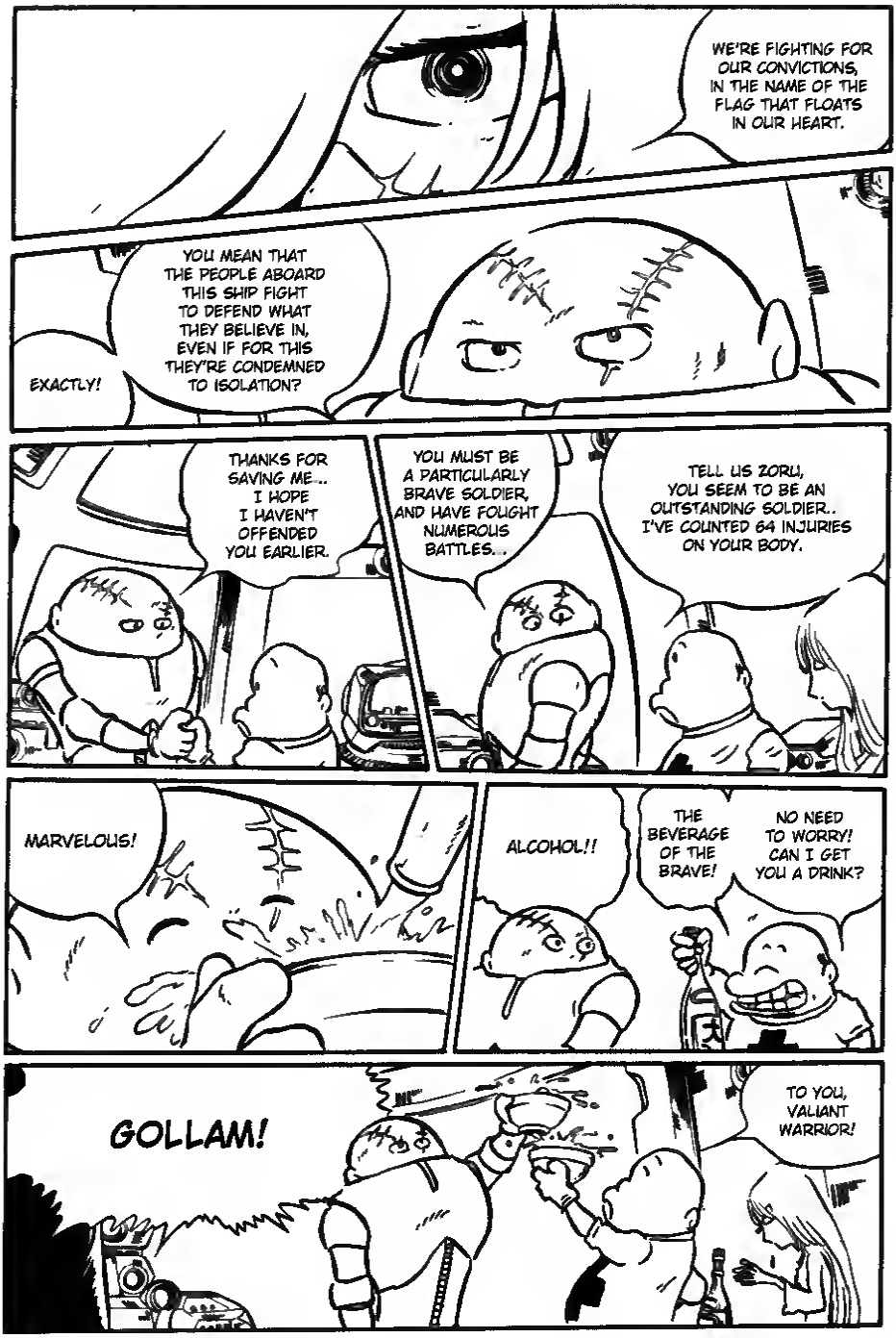

TADASHI!
TADASHI ...
!
I CAN'T HELP HIM.

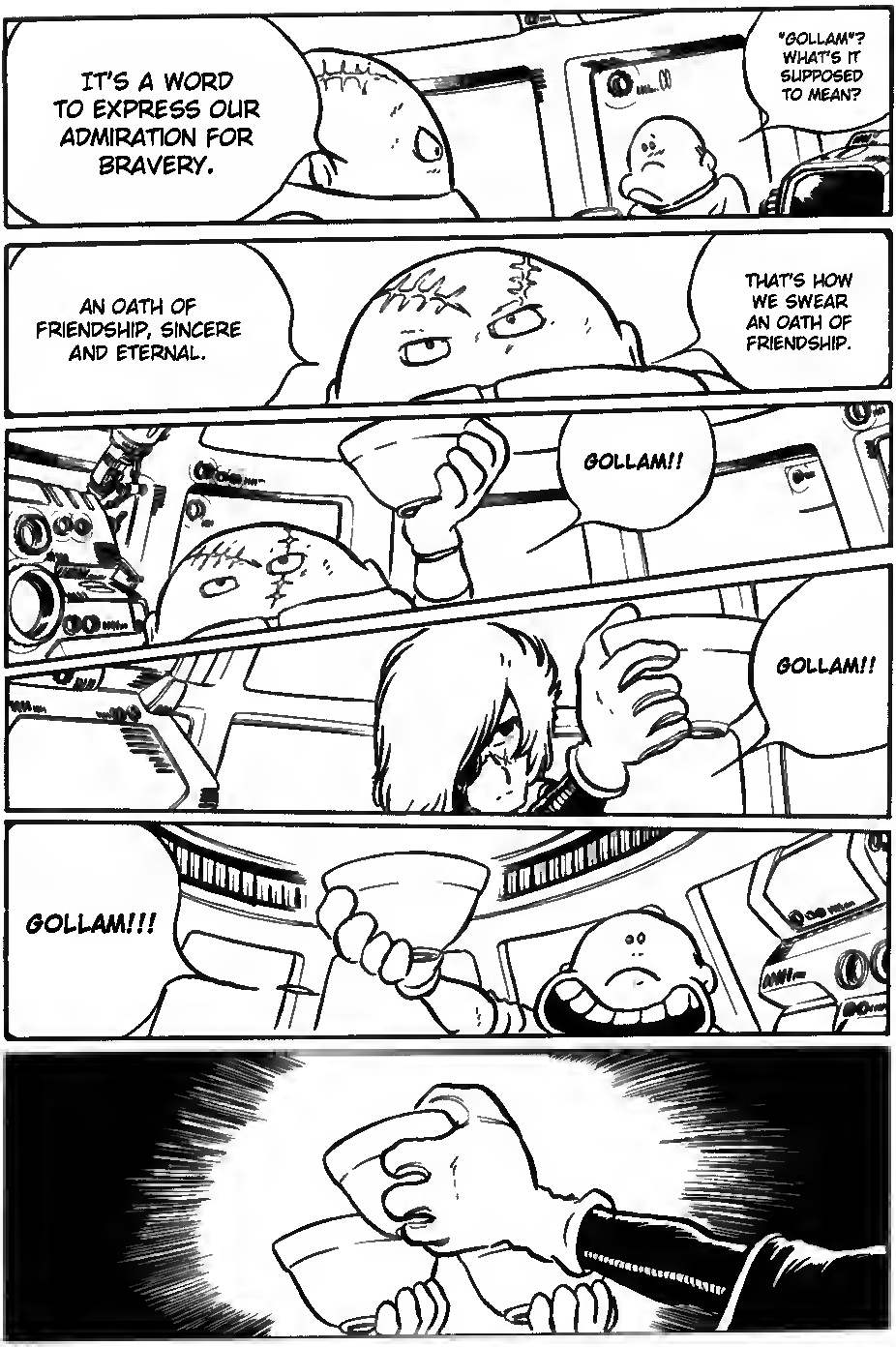
HE'S SIMPLY UNCONSCIOUS?
HUH?
THROW HIM A BUCKET OF WATER ON THE HEAD, THAT'LL WAKE HIM UP!
WHERE... WHERE AM I...?
HERE!
HEY! I SAVED HIM! I SHOULD DESERVE THE HUG!
OH, I'M SO HAPPY!
I WAS CARELESS. SERVES ME RIGHT FOR NOT WATCHING OUT...
YOU REALLY SCARED US.
NO! NOT IN PUBLIC! I'D BE EMBARRASSED!
I DON'T MIND GIVING YOU A KISS TO THANK YOU.

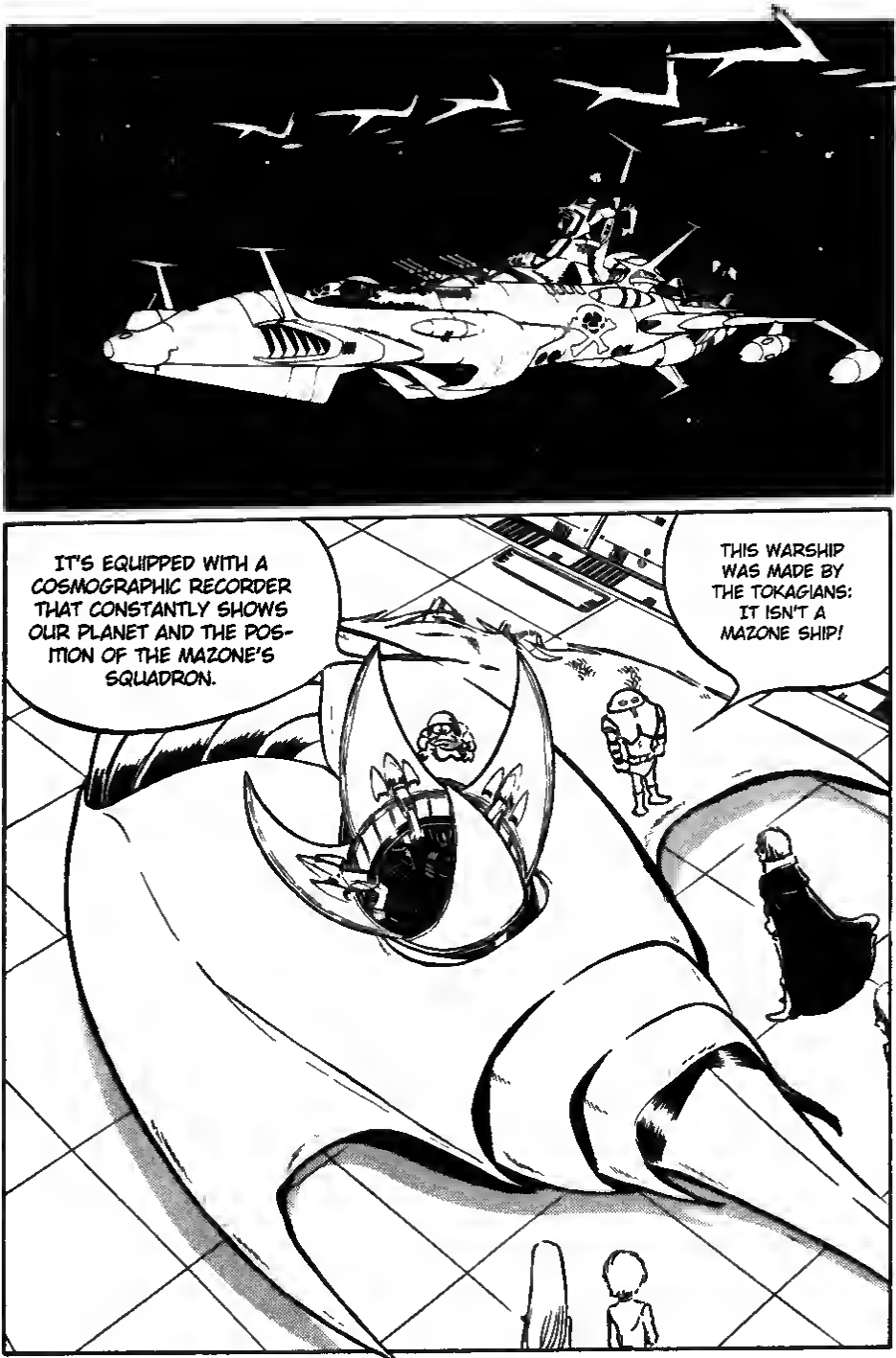

HE'S THE COMMANDER OF THE MAZONE SHIP WE'VE CAPTURED.
AND HIM, WHO'S HE...?
HE CLAIMS TO GO BY THE NAME ZORU AND TO BELONG TO THE TOKAGA PEOPLE, IN THE THIRD GALAXY.
BUT, HE'S NOT A MAZONE...
IT SHOULD BE FINE!
I HOPE HE'LL STAY QUIET IF I REVIVE HIM...
DOCTOR... PLEASE SAVE HIM! HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG, HE'S AN UNFORTUNATE BEING!
MIIME IS SURELY FEELING SYMPATHY FOR THIS SOLDIER. SHE'S LOST HER PLANET TOO BECAUSE OF THE VEGETAL KINGDOM'S INVASION.
I HEARD THAT THE MAZONE HAVE ESTABLISHED THEIR SUPREMACY ON THE TOKAGA PEOPLE'S PLANET.

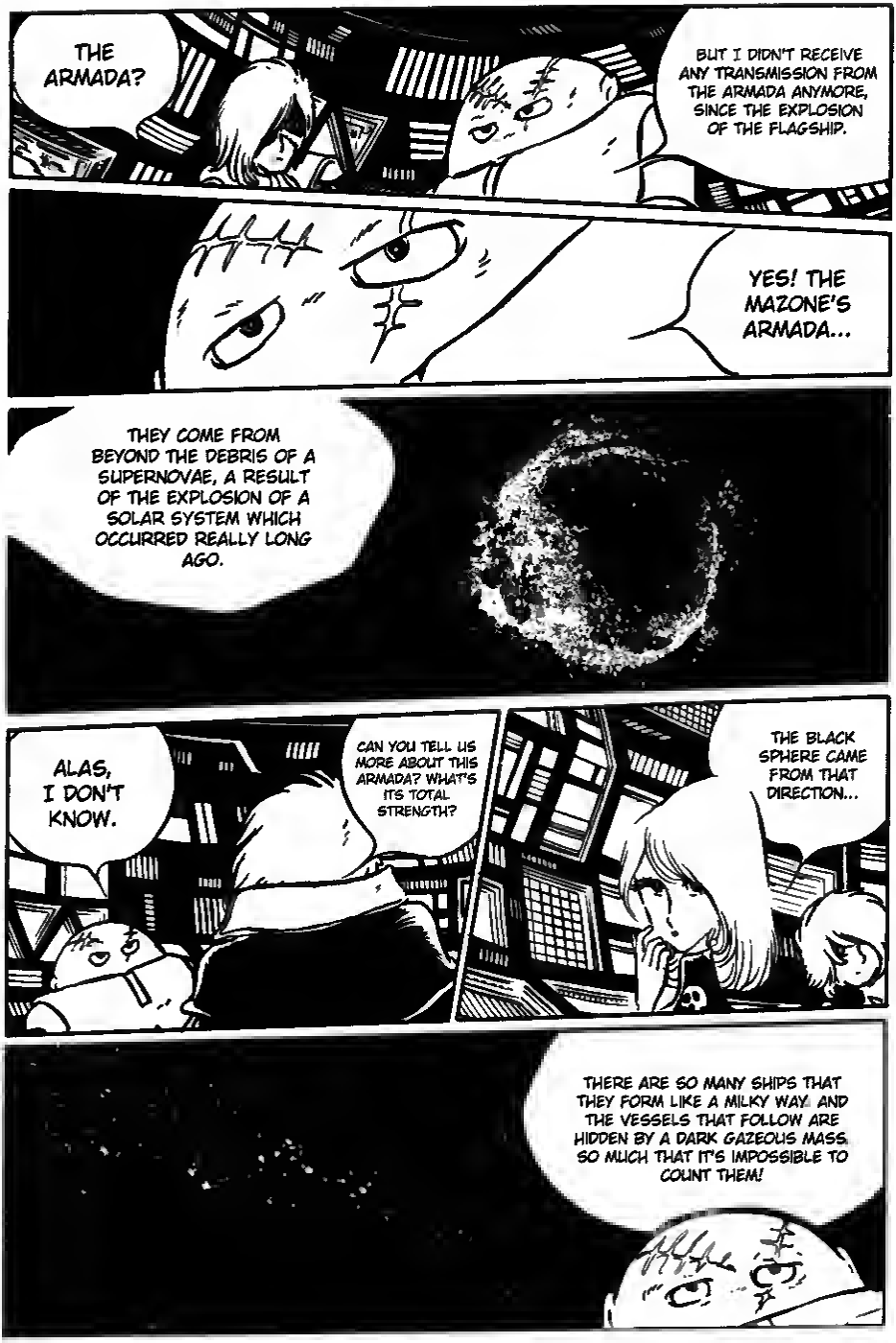

MIIME IS REALLY KIND... BUT THAT DOESN'T STOP HER FROM BEING BRAVE: SHE HAS AN INCREDIBLE STRENGTH OF CHARACTER! SHE RUSHED TO HELP ALL ON HER OWN...
AND THAT'S WHEN SHE TALKED TO THIS SOLDIER.
.....
.....

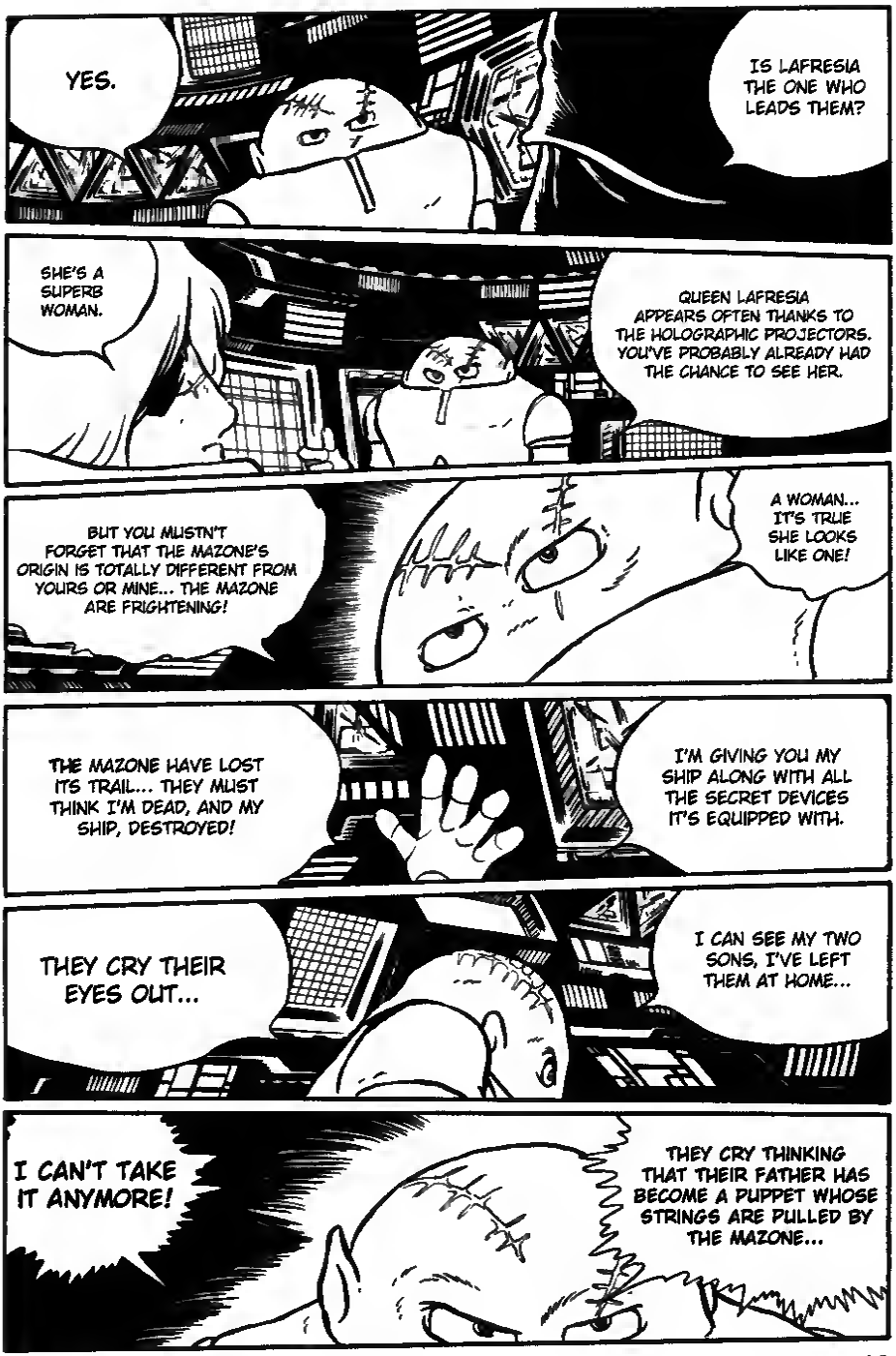

AH...
PHEW! YOU SCARED ME! FOR A MOMENT, I THOUGHT YOU WERE AN INFERIOR LIFE FORM...
HOW UNGRATEFUL! I SAVE HIS LIFE TO BE TOLD THAT! DO I LOOK LIKE A MONSTER?
WHERE AM I...?
ABOARD THE ARCADIA, MY SHIP.
ZORU FROM TOKAGA, I AM HARLOCK!
HARLOCK ...
WHOSE ORGANIZATION DOES THIS SHIP BELONG TO? TO WHICH PLANETARY SYSTEM IS IT RELATED? EARTH OR MAZONE?
NEITHER! THE ARCADIA HAS NO MASTER: IT'S A FREE SHIP!


WE'RE FIGHTING FOR OUR CONVICTIONS, IN THE NAME OF THE FLAG THAT FLOATS IN OUR HEART.
YOU MEAN THAT THE PEOPLE ABOARD THIS SHIP FIGHT TO DEFEND WHAT THEY BELIEVE IN, EVEN IF FOR THIS THEY'RE CONDEMNED TO ISOLATION?
EXACTLY!
THANKS FOR SAVING ME... I HOPE I HAVEN'T OFFENDED YOU EARLIER.
YOU MUST BE A PARTICULARLY BRAVE SOLDIER, AND HAVE FOUGHT NUMEROUS BATTLES...
TELL US ZORU, YOU SEEM TO BE AN OUTSTANDING SOLDIER.. I'VE COUNTED 64 INJURIES ON YOUR BODY.
MARVELOUS!
ALCOHOL!!
THE BEVERAGE OF THE BRAVE!
NO NEED TO WORRY! CAN I GET YOU A DRINK?
GOLLAM!
TO YOU, VALIANT WARRIOR!


IT'S A WORD TO EXPRESS OUR ADMIRATION FOR BRAVERY.
"GOLLAM"? WHAT'S IT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
AN OATH OF FRIENDSHIP, SINCERE AND ETERNAL.
THAT'S HOW WE SWEAR AN OATH OF FRIENDSHIP.
GOLLAM!!
GOLLAM!!
GOLLAM!!!

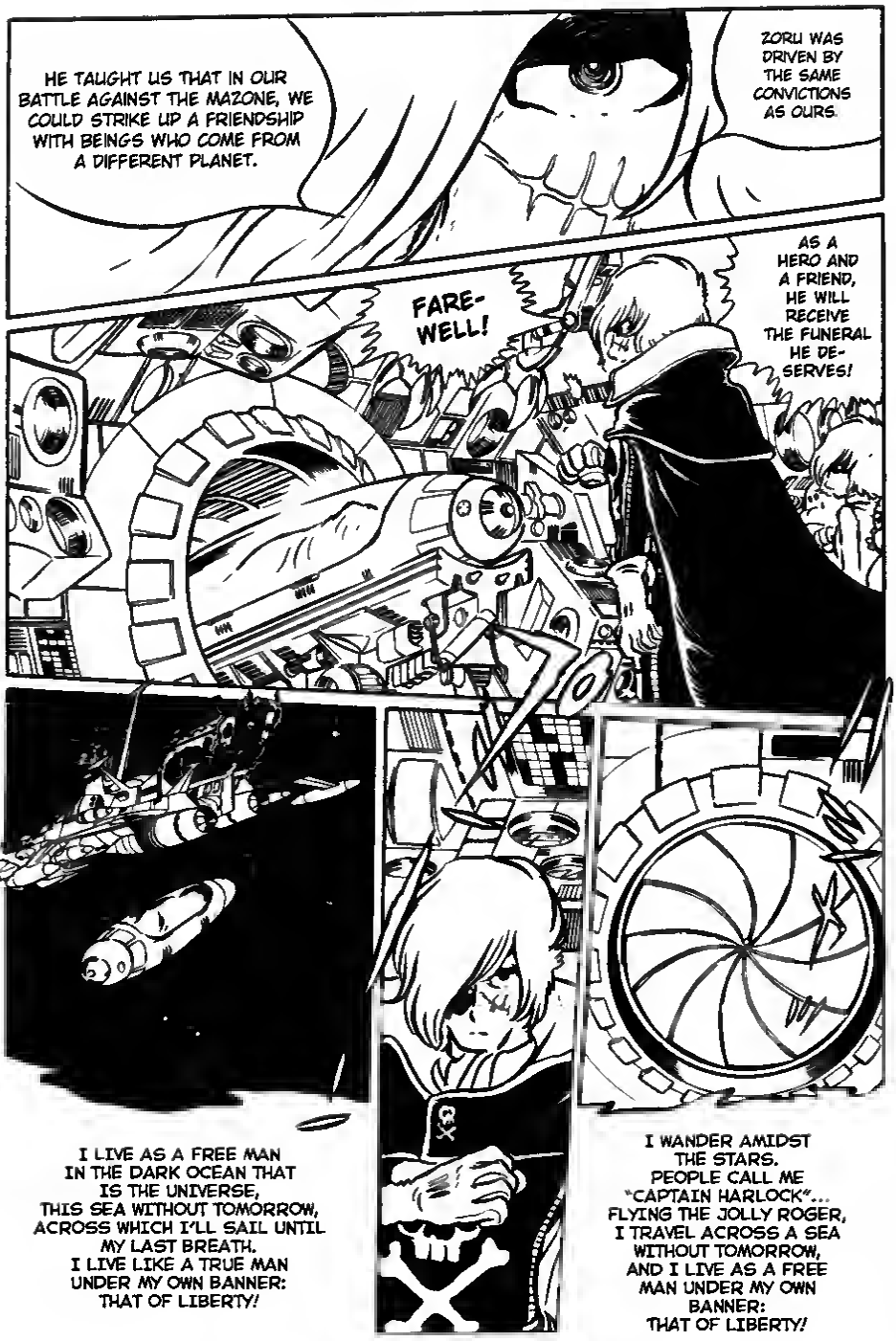

IT'S EQUIPPED WITH A COSMOGRAPHIC RECORDER THAT CONSTANTLY SHOWS OUR PLANET AND THE POSITION OF THE MAZONE'S SQUADRON.
THIS WARSHIP WAS MADE BY THE TOKAGIANS: IT ISN'T A MAZONE SHIP!


THE ARMADA?
BUT I DIDN'T RECEIVE ANY TRANSMISSION FROM THE ARMADA ANYMORE, SINCE THE EXPLOSION OF THE FLAGSHIP.
YES! THE MAZONE'S ARMADA...
THEY COME FROM BEYOND THE DEBRIS OF A SUPERNOVAE, A RESULT OF THE EXPLOSION OF A SOLAR SYSTEM WHICH OCCURRED REALLY LONG AGO.
ALAS, I DON'T KNOW.
CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT THIS ARMADA? WHAT'S ITS TOTAL STRENGTH?
THE BLACK SPHERE CAME FROM THAT DIRECTION...
THERE ARE SO MANY SHIPS THAT THEY FORM LIKE A MILKY WAY. AND THE VESSELS THAT FOLLOW ARE HIDDEN BY A DARK GAZEOUS MASS. SO MUCH THAT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO COUNT THEM!

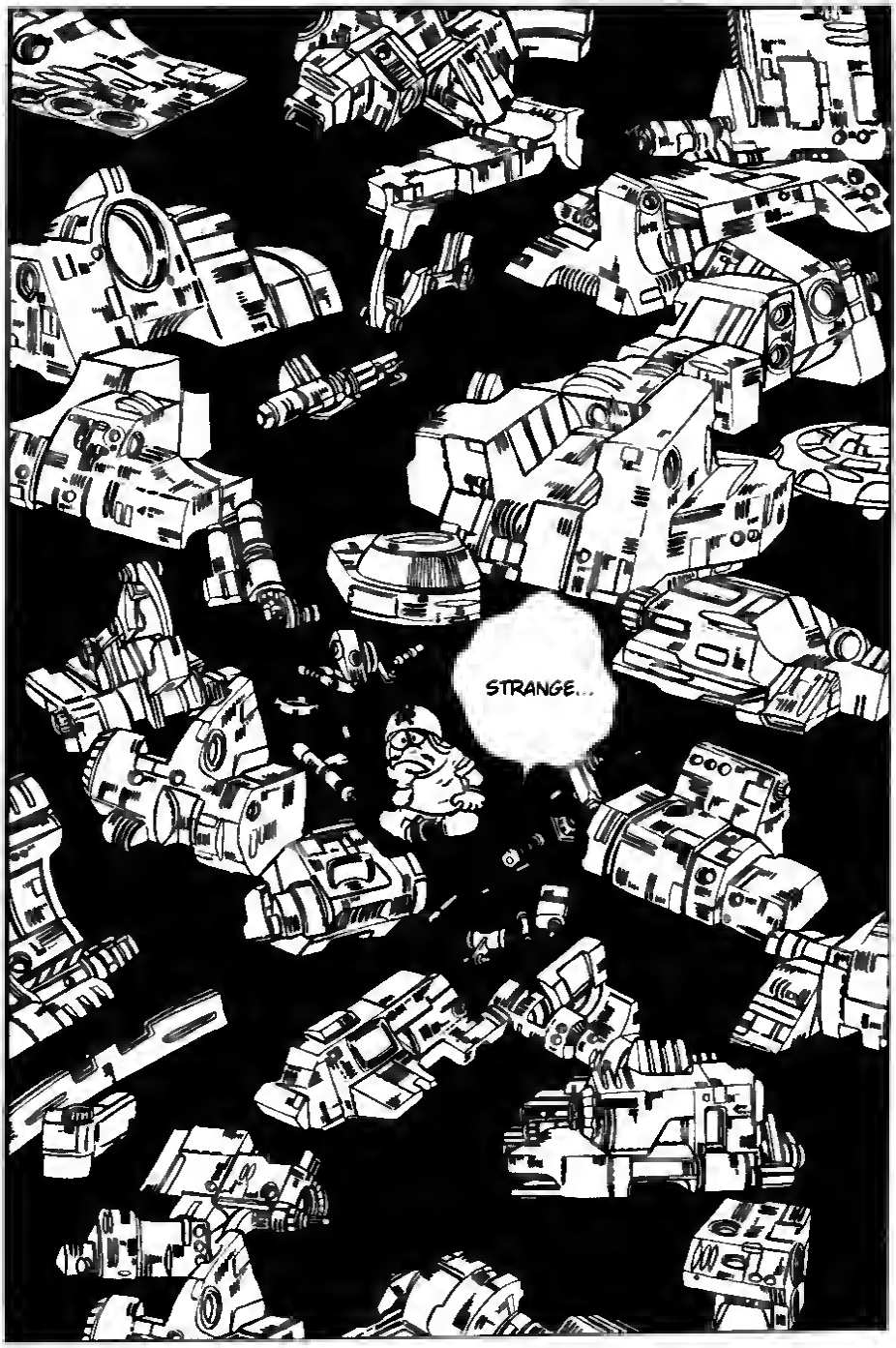

YES.
IS LAFRESIA THE ONE WHO LEADS THEM?
SHE'S A SUPERB WOMAN.
QUEEN LAFRESIA APPEARS OFTEN THANKS TO THE HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTORS. YOU'VE PROBABLY ALREADY HAD THE CHANCE TO SEE HER.
BUT YOU MUSTN'T FORGET THAT THE MAZONE'S ORIGIN IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM YOURS OR MINE... THE MAZONE ARE FRIGHTENING!
A WOMAN... IT'S TRUE SHE LOOKS LIKE ONE!
THE MAZONE HAVE LOST ITS TRAIL... THEY MUST THINK I'M DEAD, AND MY SHIP, DESTROYED!
I'M GIVING YOU MY SHIP ALONG WITH ALL THE SECRET DEVICES IT'S EQUIPPED WITH.
THEY CRY THEIR EYES OUT...
I CAN SEE MY TWO SONS, I'VE LEFT THEM AT HOME...
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
THEY CRY THINKING THAT THEIR FATHER HAS BECOME A PUPPET WHOSE STRINGS ARE PULLED BY THE MAZONE...

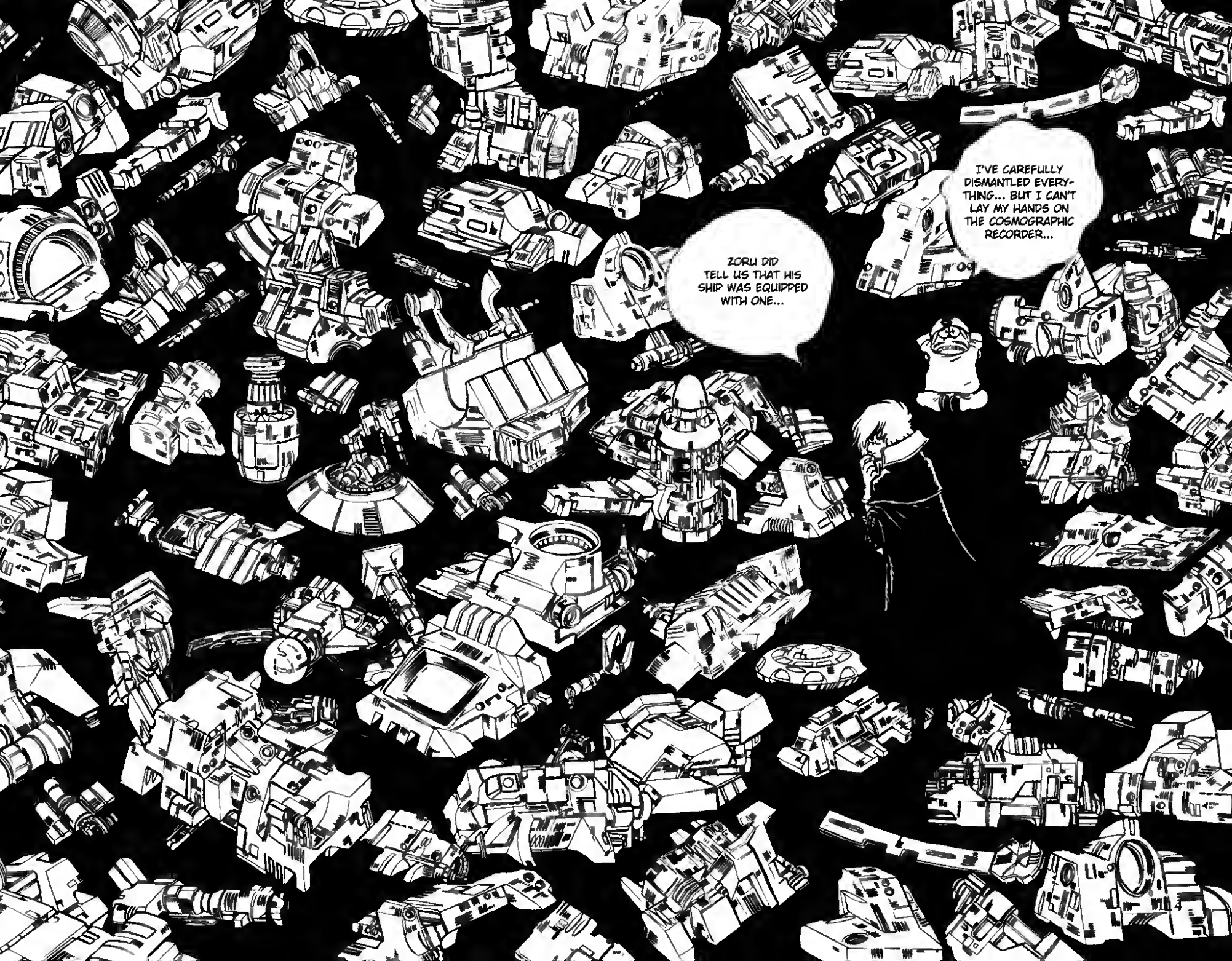
I'D LIKE TO REST A BIT, BEFORE THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE...
I'VE FINALLY MET SOME FRIENDS, BUT... TOO LATE!
I TOLD YOU, THEY HOLD MY PEOPLE HOSTAGE.
FORGIVE ME FOR HAVING MISTREATED YOU, MY BOY : I WAS IN THE THRALL OF THE MAZONE, AND I COULDN'T DO OTHERWISE.
NO HARM DONE.
THE ARCADIA IS AN AMAZING SHIP... I HAVE THE FEELING IT WOULD DO ME THE HONOR OF ACCEPTING ME ON BOARD...
WHEN YOU'LL MEET MY SONS, PLEASE, TELL THEM THIS...
I'M SURE THAT SOMEDAY, YOU'LL BECOME A GREAT SPACE WARRIOR.
KNOW THAT I'VE BEEN IMPRESSED BY YOUR COURAGE : YOU DIDN'T HESITATE TO PUT YOUR LIFE IN DANGER TO STOP ME.
FARE-WELL!
TELL THEM THAT HE DIED AFTER HAVING MET SOME FRIENDS...
TELL THEM THAT WHEN THEIR FATHER DIED, HE WAS NO LONGER THE MAZONE'S SLAVE, AND THAT HE HAD REGAINED HIS HONOR...

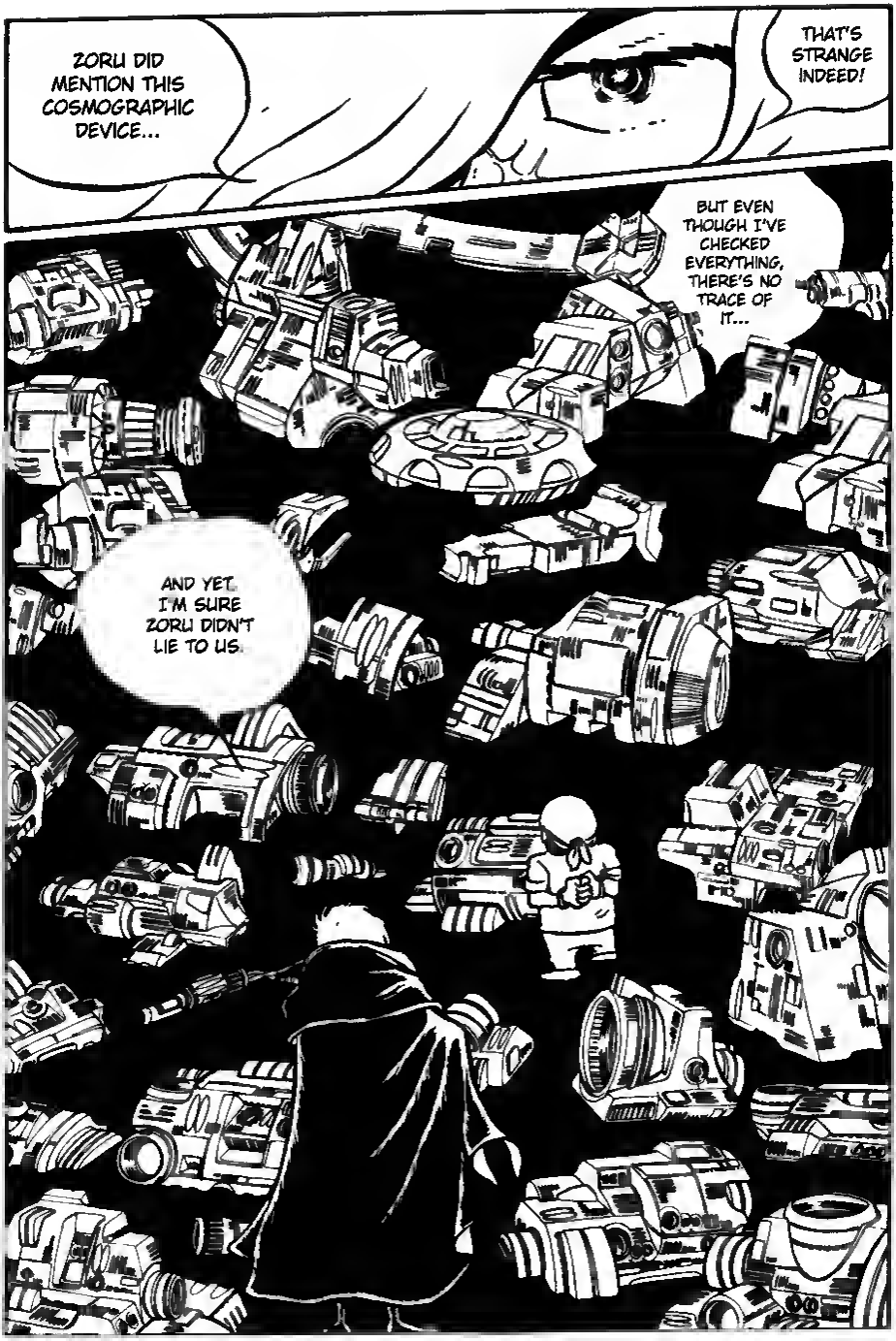
HE WAS SO ASHAMED OF NOT BEING ABLE TO BEHAVE LIKE A TRUE SOLDIER...
WHEN THE MAZONE BELIEVED HIM DEAD, HE FELT FREE FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND HE DECIDED TO COMMIT SUICIDE.
ZORU COULD NEVER BEAR BEING ENSLAVED BY THE MAZONE...
ZORU... I WON'T FORGET THE FIRE THAT WAS BURNING IN YOU!
ON THAT POINT, WE WERE DIFFERENT, HE AND I.
ME, I WON'T DIE BEFORE I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED MY MISSION!
ZORU KILLED HIMSELF...

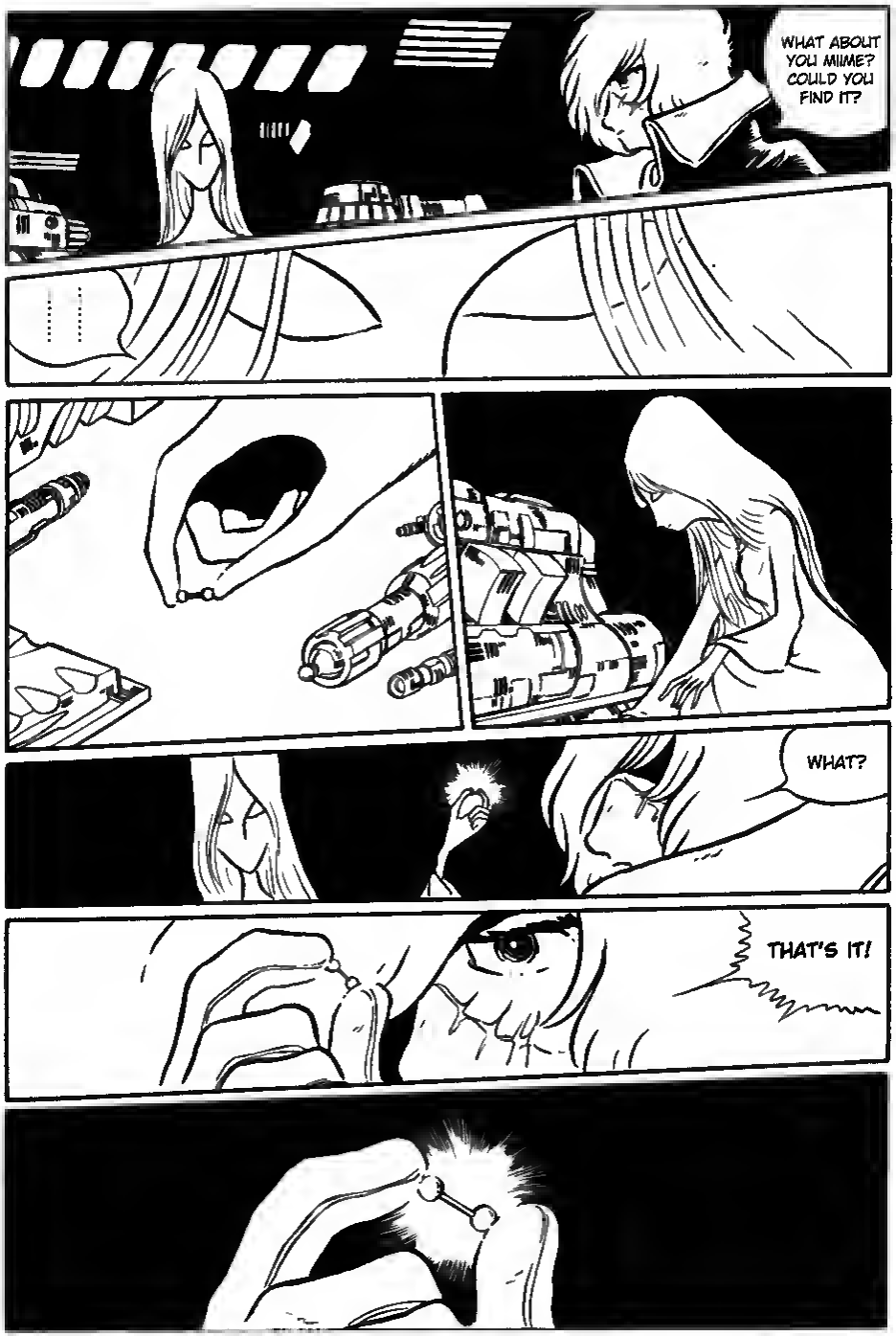

HE TAUGHT US THAT IN OUR BATTLE AGAINST THE MAZONE, WE COULD STRIKE UP A FRIENDSHIP WITH BEINGS WHO COME FROM A DIFFERENT PLANET.
ZORU WAS DRIVEN BY THE SAME CONVICTIONS AS OURS.
FARE-WELL!
AS A HERO AND A FRIEND, HE WILL RECEIVE THE FUNERAL HE DE-SERVES!
I LIVE AS A FREE MAN IN THE DARK OCEAN THAT IS THE UNIVERSE, THIS SEA WITHOUT TOMORROW, ACROSS WHICH I'LL SAIL UNTIL MY LAST BREATH. I LIVE LIKE A TRUE MAN UNDER MY OWN BANNER: THAT OF LIBERTY!
I WANDER AMIDST THE STARS. PEOPLE CALL ME "CAPTAIN HARLOCK"... FLYING THE JOLLY ROGER, I TRAVEL ACROSS A SEA WITHOUT TOMORROW, AND I LIVE AS A FREE MAN UNDER MY OWN BANNER: THAT OF LIBERTY!

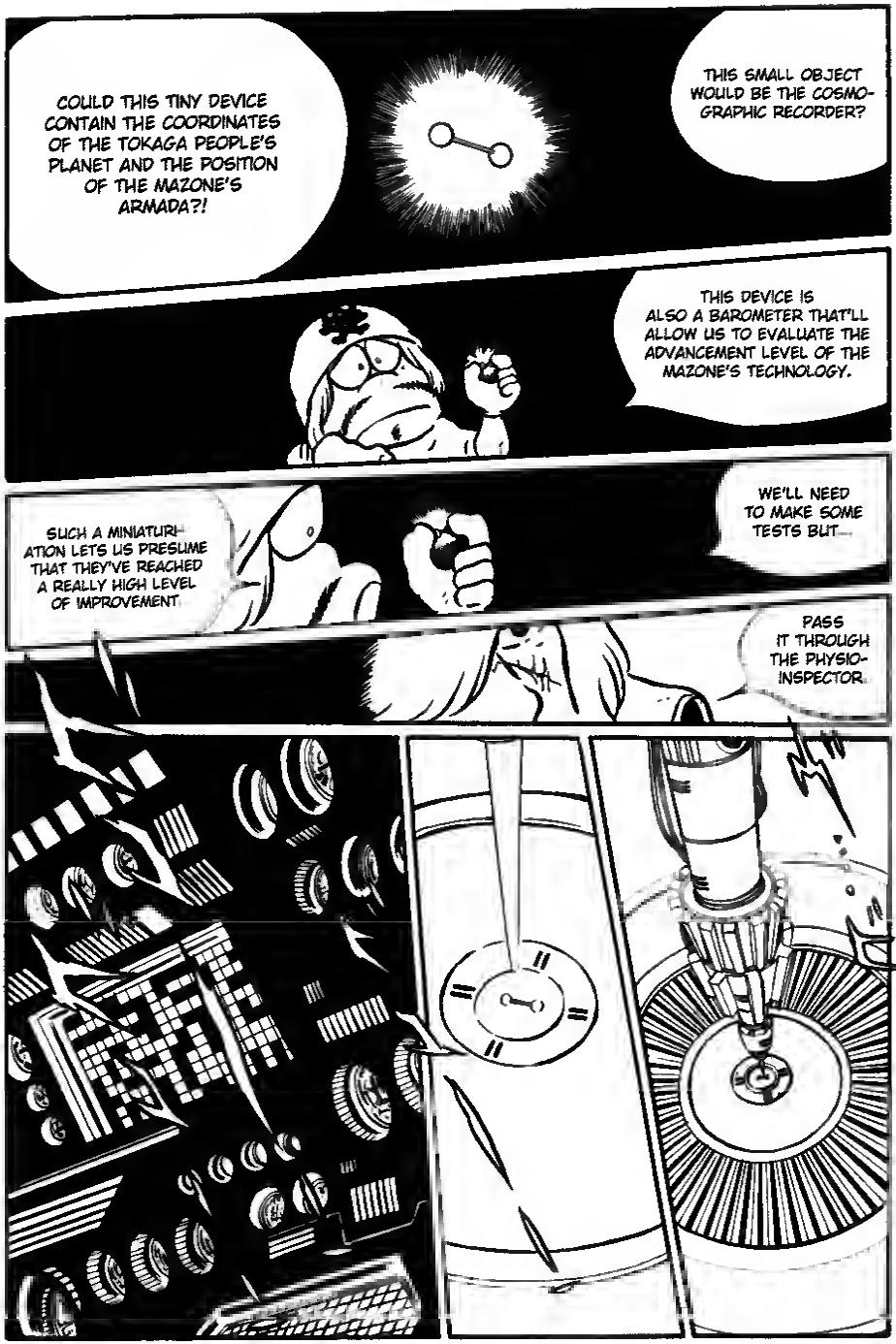
ZORU, THE TOKAGIAN SOLDIER, CHOSE TO KILL HIMSELF RATHER THAN LIVE IN SHAME. HARLOCK UNDERSTANDS THIS CHOICE BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE BECAUSE, IN THE PAST, HE HAS HESITATED TOO, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, TO DO IT. BUT TODAY, HE TRAVELS THE VAST SPACE, FLYING THE JOLLY ROGER! AS LONG AS HE LIVES, HE'LL SAIL IN THE UNIVERSE, SINGING HIS NOBLE ANTHEM...


STRANGE...


ZORU DID TELL US THAT HIS SHIP WAS EQUIPPED WITH ONE...
I'VE CAREFULLY DISMANTLED EVERYTHING... BUT I CAN'T LAY MY HANDS ON THE COSMOGRAPHIC RECORDER...

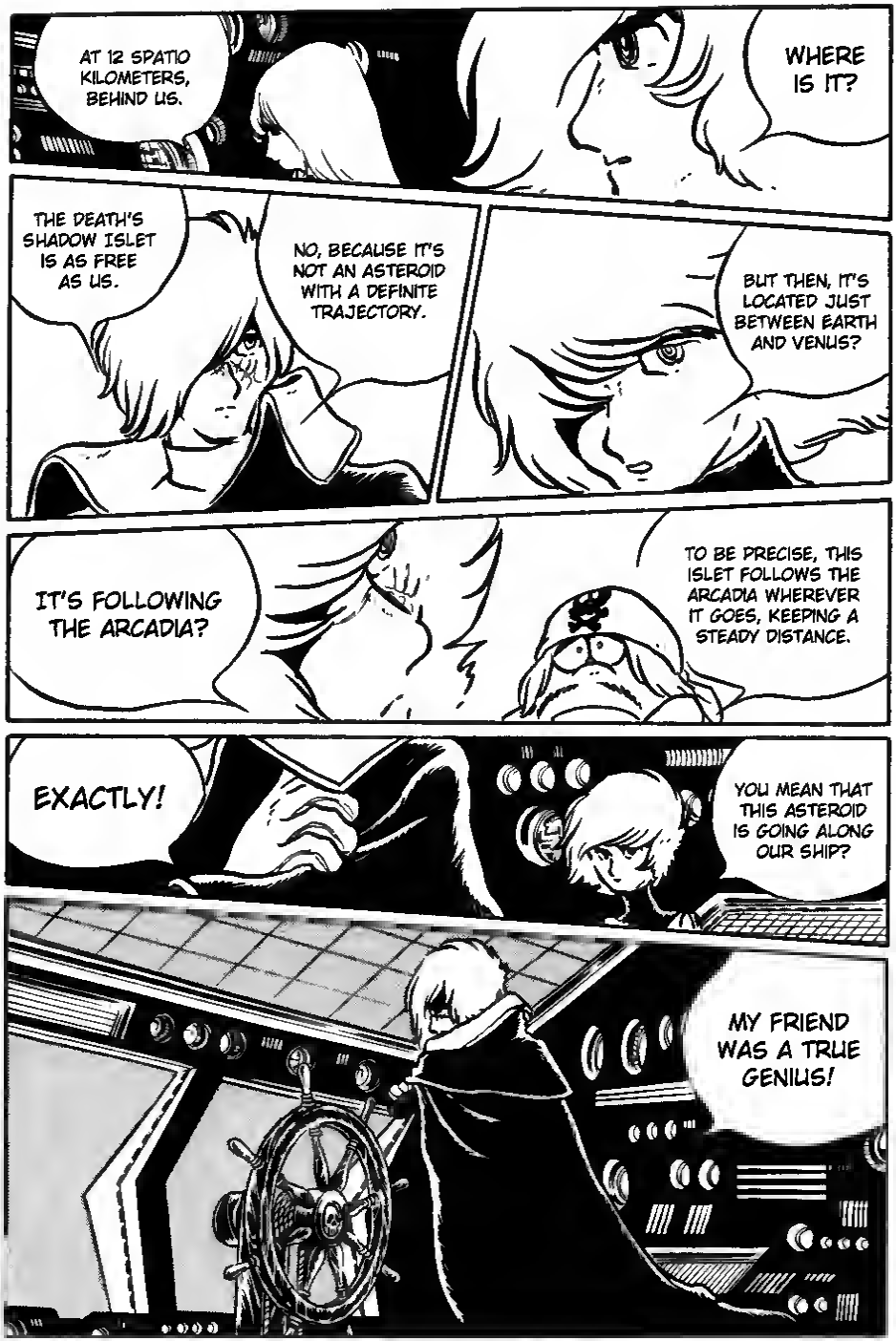

ZORU DID MENTION THIS COSMOGRAPHIC DEVICE...
THAT'S STRANGE INDEED!
BUT EVEN THOUGH I'VE CHECKED EVERYTHING, THERE'S NO TRACE OF IT...
AND YET, I'M SURE ZORU DIDN'T LIE TO US.


WHAT ABOUT YOU MIIME? COULD YOU FIND IT?
.....
WHAT?
THAT'S IT!

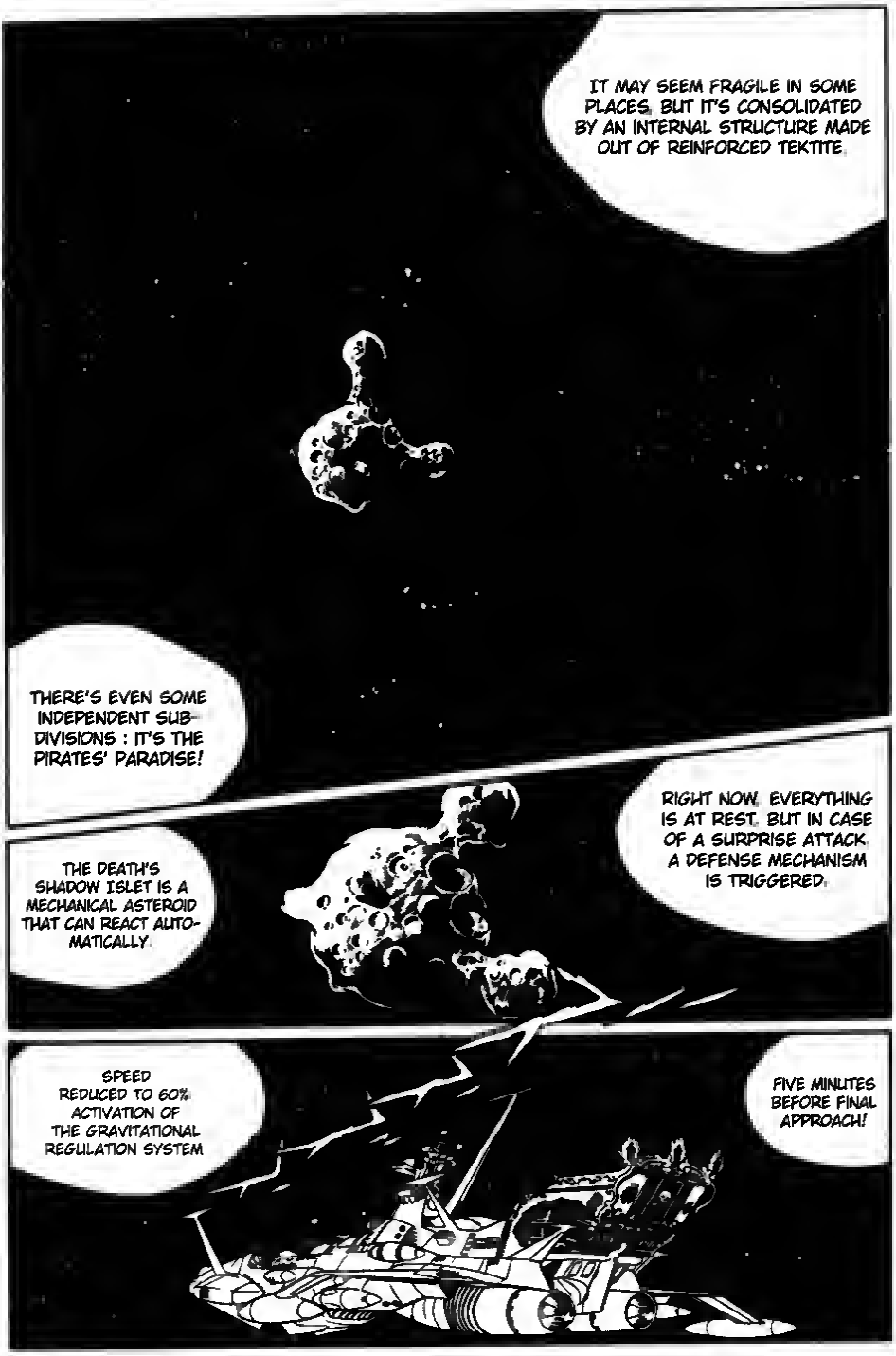

COULD THIS TINY DEVICE CONTAIN THE COORDINATES OF THE TOKAGA PEOPLE'S PLANET AND THE POSITION OF THE MAZONE'S ARMADA?!
THIS SMALL OBJECT WOULD BE THE COSMO-GRAPHIC RECORDER?
THIS DEVICE IS ALSO A BAROMETER THAT'LL ALLOW US TO EVALUATE THE ADVANCEMENT LEVEL OF THE MAZONE'S TECHNOLOGY.
SUCH A MINIATURI-ATION LETS US PRESUME THAT THEY'VE REACHED A REALLY HIGH LEVEL OF IMPROVEMENT.
WE'LL NEED TO MAKE SOME TESTS BUT...
PASS IT THROUGH THE PHYSIO-INSPECTOR.

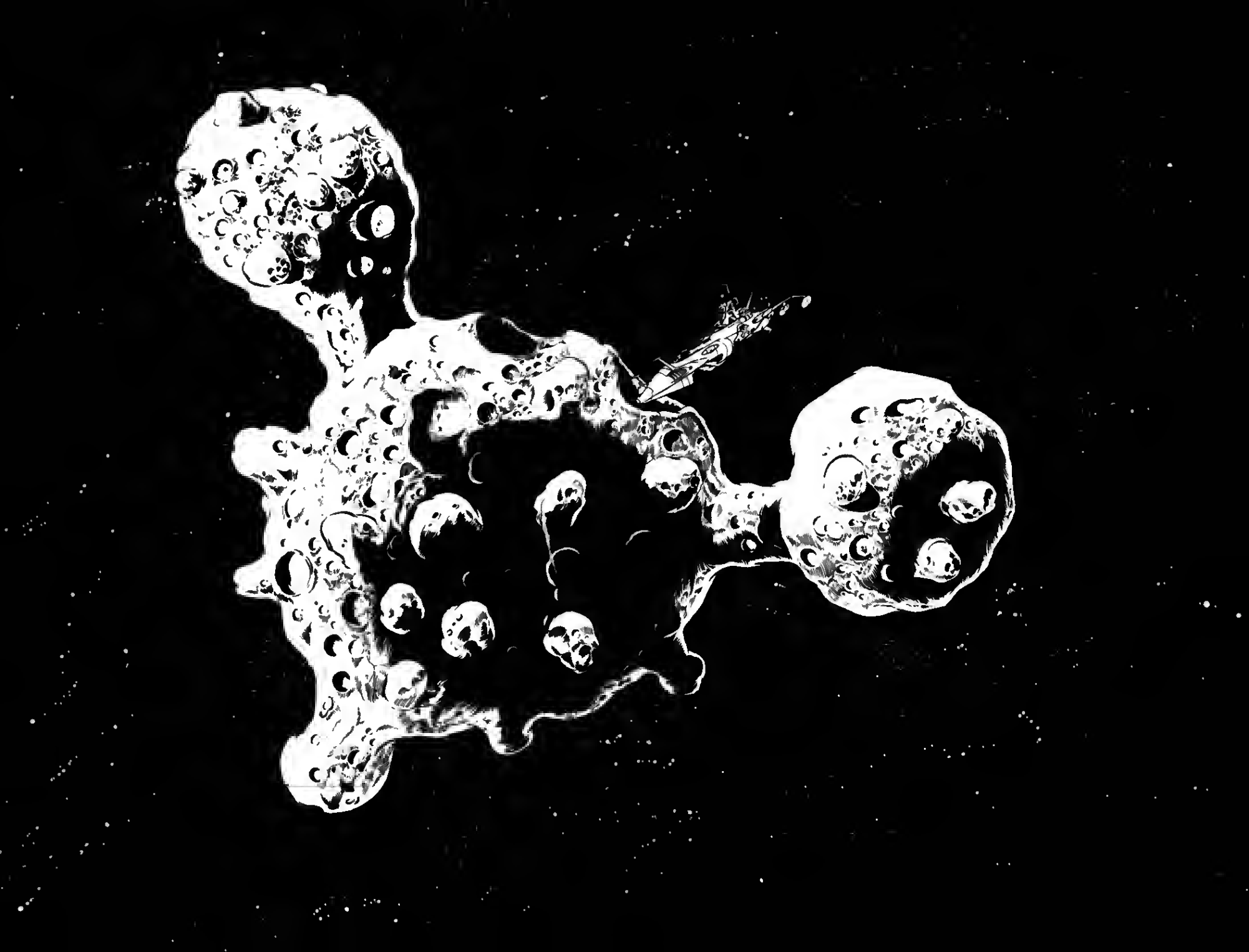
DANGER! DANGER! SENSORS AT CRITICAL LEVEL!
ANALYSIS IMPOSSIBLE OPERATION ABORTED
.....

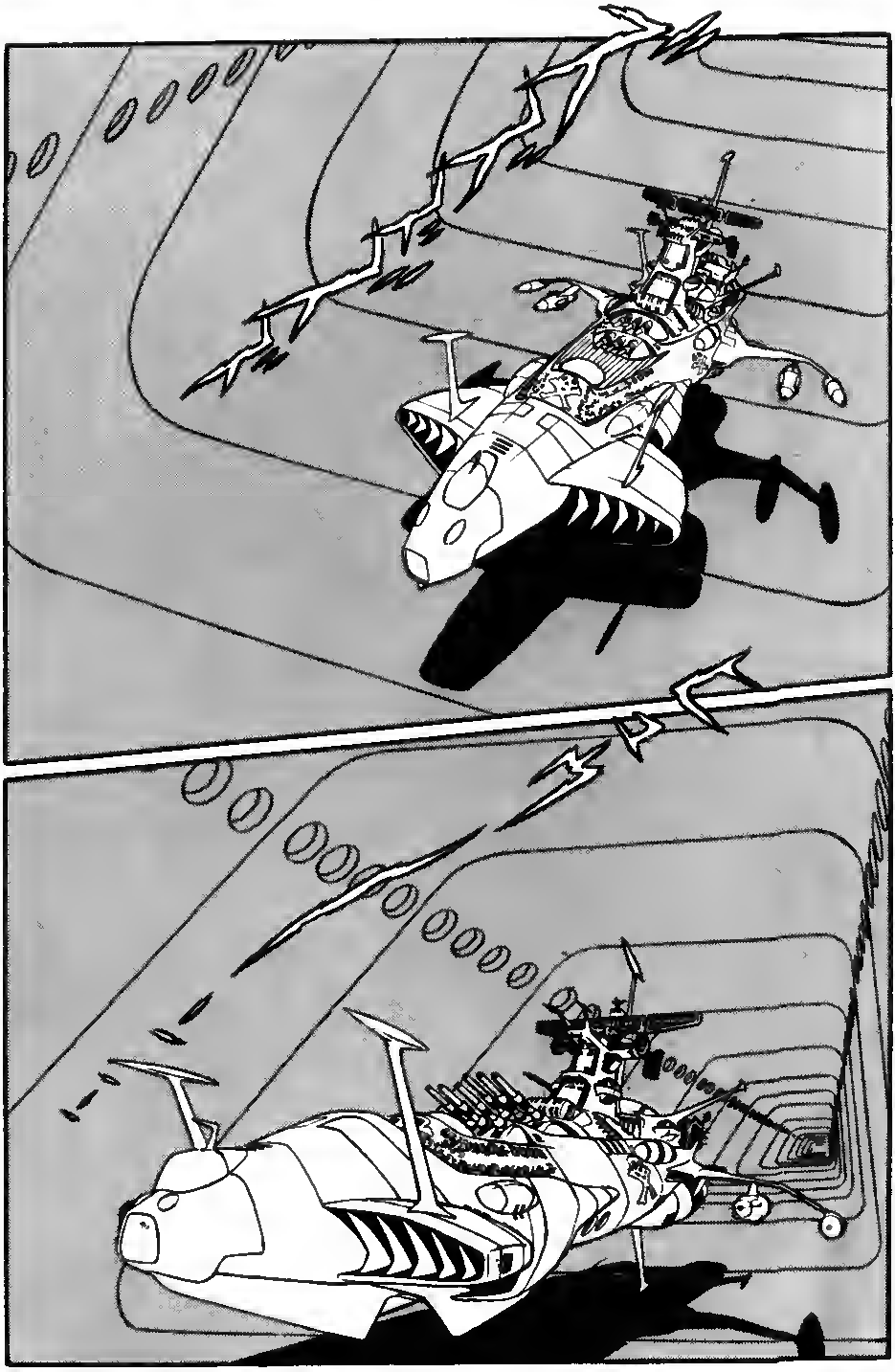
IF THIS COSMOGRAPHIC RECORDER CAN DEFEAT THE ARCADIA'S COMPUTERS, IT MUST BE EXTREMELY ADVANCED!
THAT MEANS IT'S STORING AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION, MORE THAN A BILLION HUMAN BRAINS COULD STORE UP.
WE NEED TO ANALYZE IT WITH OUR BASE'S PHYSIO-INSPECTOR.
AND THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WE NEED TO DO THERE.
WE'RE GOING BACK TO BASE!
BUT... I THOUGHT YOU DESTROYED YOUR BASE DURING THE DECEPTION WITH THE EMERALDAS HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTORS...?
THAT'S RIGHT, WE'VE DESTROYED THE ONE WHICH WAS LOCATED IN THE OUTER PERIMETER'S ORBIT OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM.
...BUT THERE'S ANOTHER!!
"THE DEATH'S SHADOW ISLET"!!


AT 12 SPATIO KILOMETERS, BEHIND US.
WHERE IS IT?
THE DEATH'S SHADOW ISLET IS AS FREE AS US.
NO, BECAUSE IT'S NOT AN ASTEROID WITH A DEFINITE TRAJECTORY.
BUT THEN, IT'S LOCATED JUST BETWEEN EARTH AND VENUS?
IT'S FOLLOWING THE ARCADIA?
TO BE PRECISE, THIS ISLET FOLLOWS THE ARCADIA WHEREVER IT GOES, KEEPING A STEADY DISTANCE.
EXACTLY!
YOU MEAN THAT THIS ASTEROID IS GOING ALONG OUR SHIP?
MY FRIEND WAS A TRUE GENIUS!

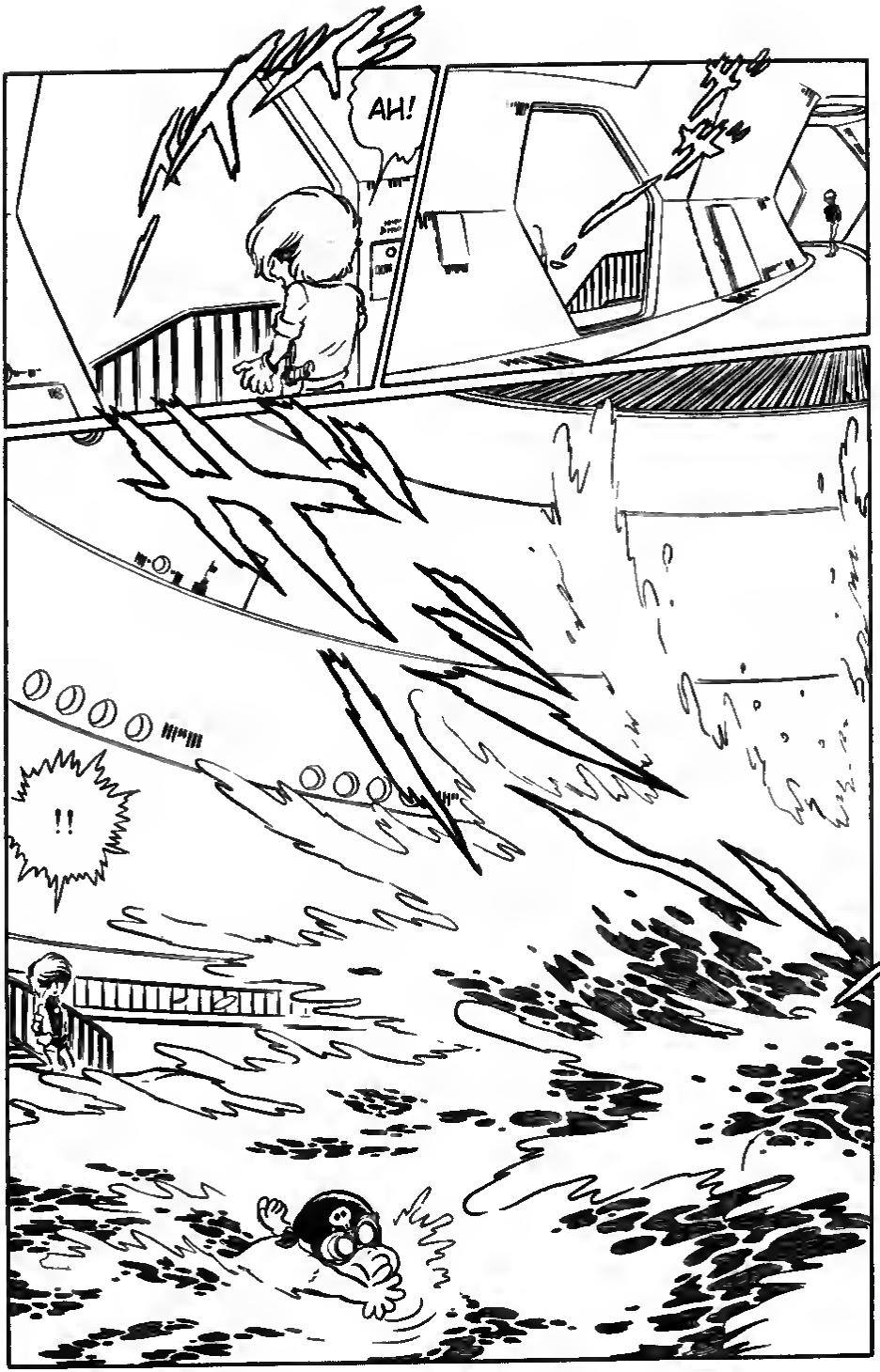
LOOK, HERE IT IS!

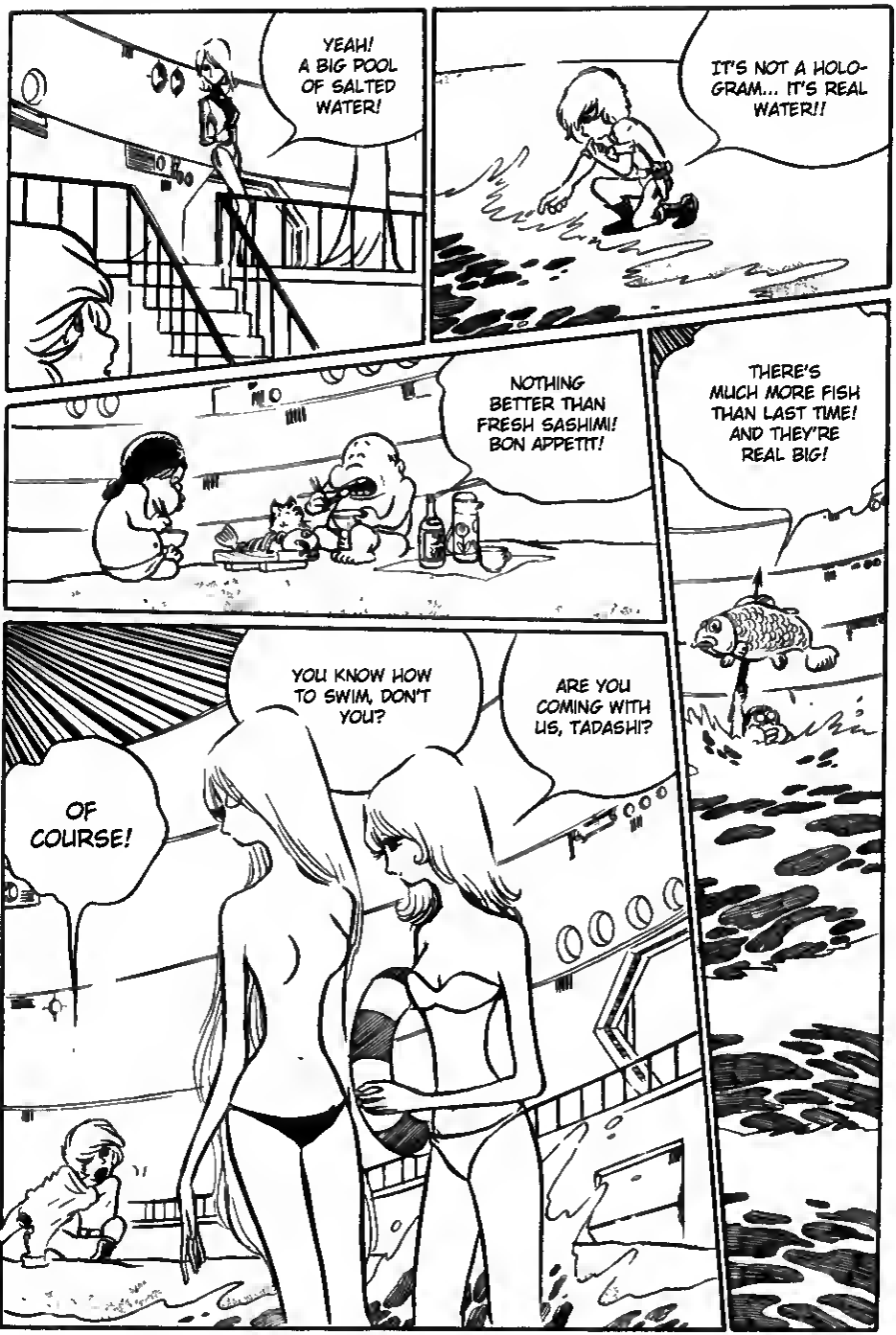

IT MAY SEEM FRAGILE IN SOME PLACES, BUT IT'S CONSOLIDATED BY AN INTERNAL STRUCTURE MADE OUT OF REINFORCED TEKTITE.
THERE'S EVEN SOME INDEPENDENT SUB-DIVISIONS : IT'S THE PIRATES' PARADISE!
THE DEATH'S SHADOW ISLET IS A MECHANICAL ASTEROID THAT CAN REACT AUTO-MATICALLY.
RIGHT NOW, EVERYTHING IS AT REST. BUT IN CASE OF A SURPRISE ATTACK, A DEFENSE MECHANISM IS TRIGGERED.
SPEED REDUCED TO 60%. ACTIVATION OF THE GRAVITATIONAL REGULATION SYSTEM
FIVE MINUTES BEFORE FINAL APPROACH!

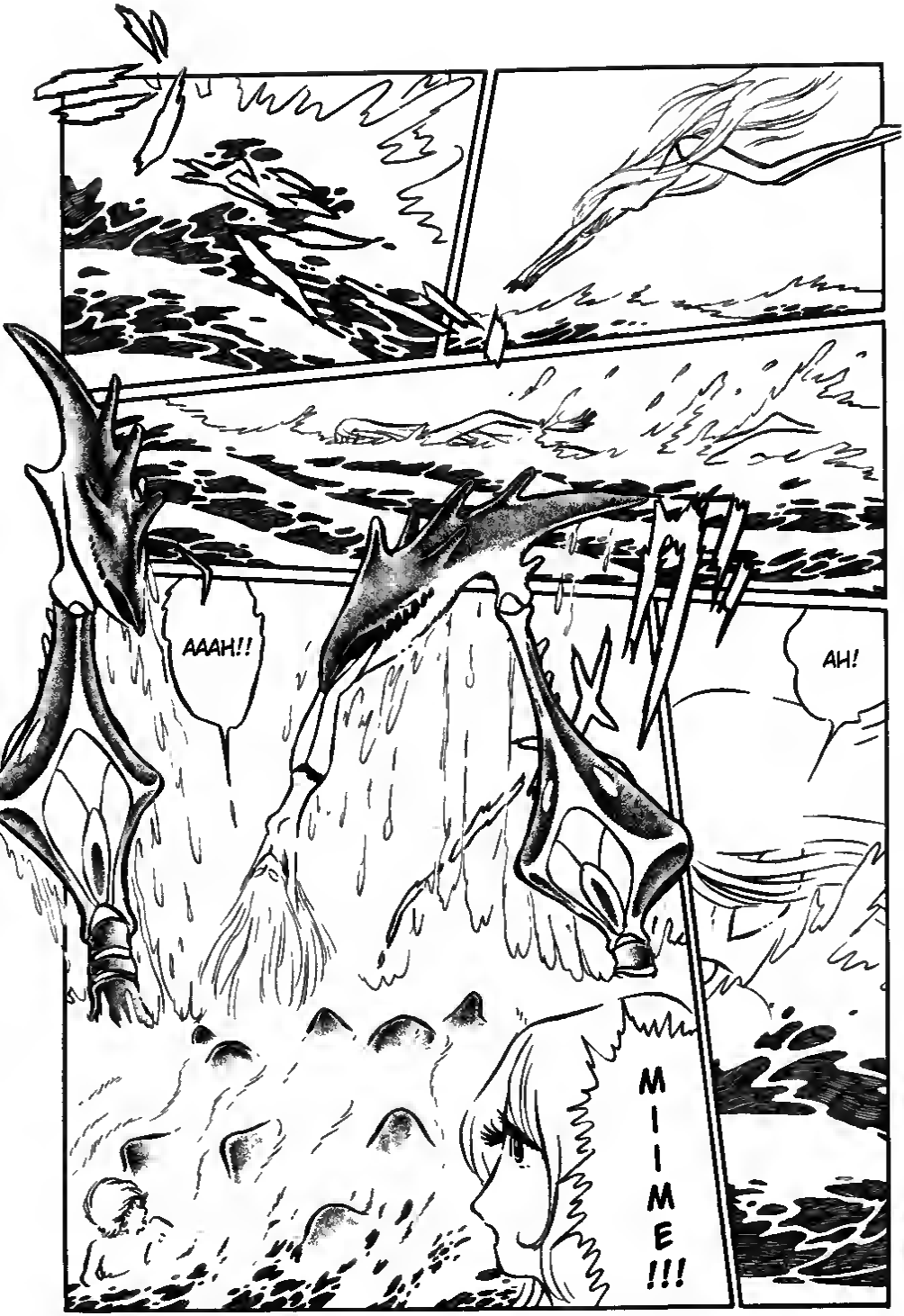




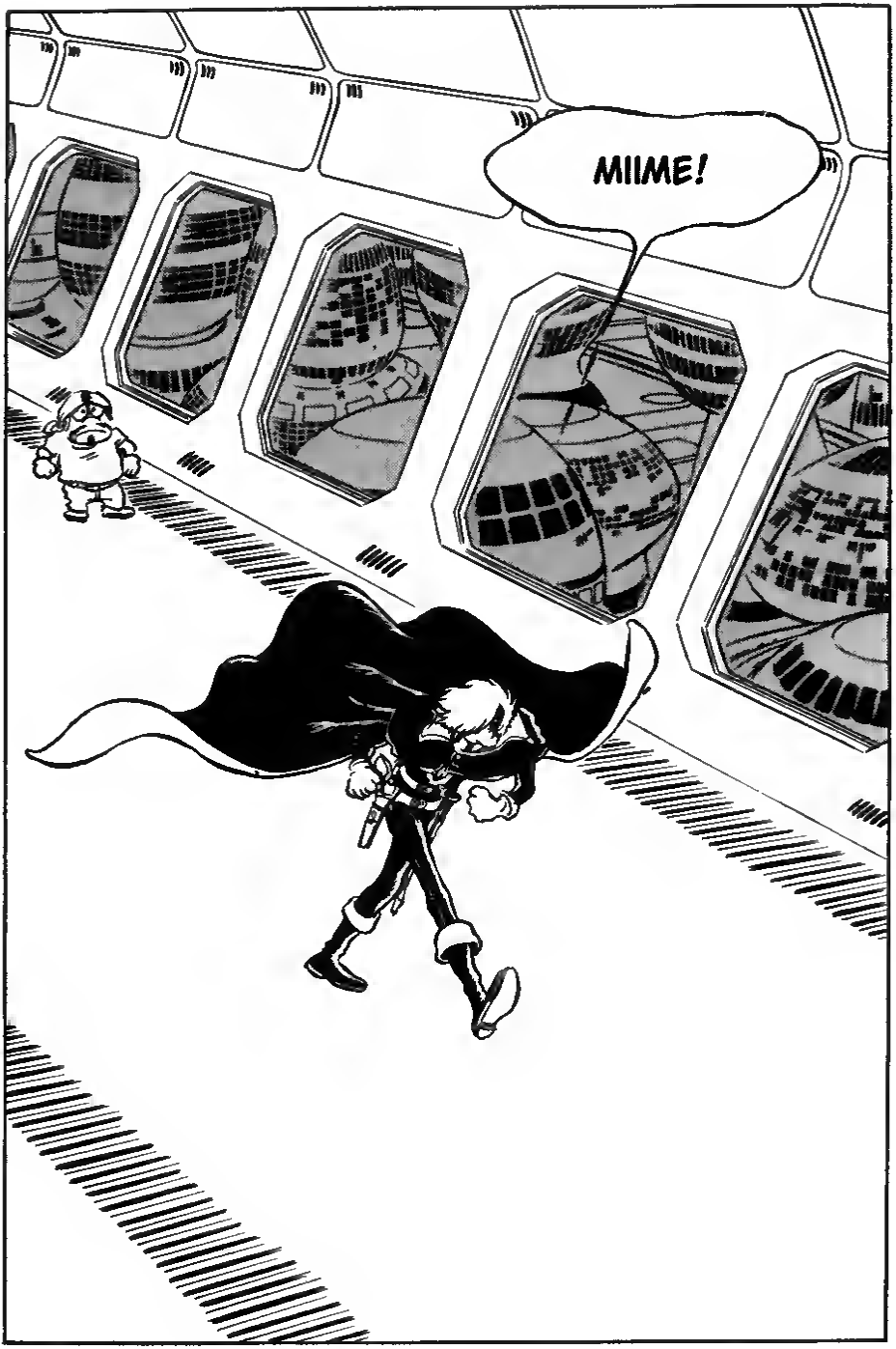
IT'S MORE LIKE ONCE AGAIN BEING IN YOUR MOTHER'S WOMB.
IT'S AS IF WE'VE BEEN SWALLOWED BY THE ASTEROID.
AND ALL THE MATERIALS ARE PERFECTLY SECURED, BECAUSE THE DEATH'S SHADOW ISLET IS PROTECTED BY MULTIPLE ARTIFICIAL LAYERS.
LIKE THIS, WE CAN EQUIP OURSELVES BASED ON OUR NEEDS.
IT'S HERE THAT SOME OPTIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND SPARE PARTS FOR THE ARCADIA ARE STORED.
MEANWHILE, GO HAVE A SWIM WITH MIIME AND KEI YUKI.
ME AND MACHI ARE GOING TO THE ANALYSIS LAB.
QUICK! DIP TIME!
A SWIM?!
.....
??

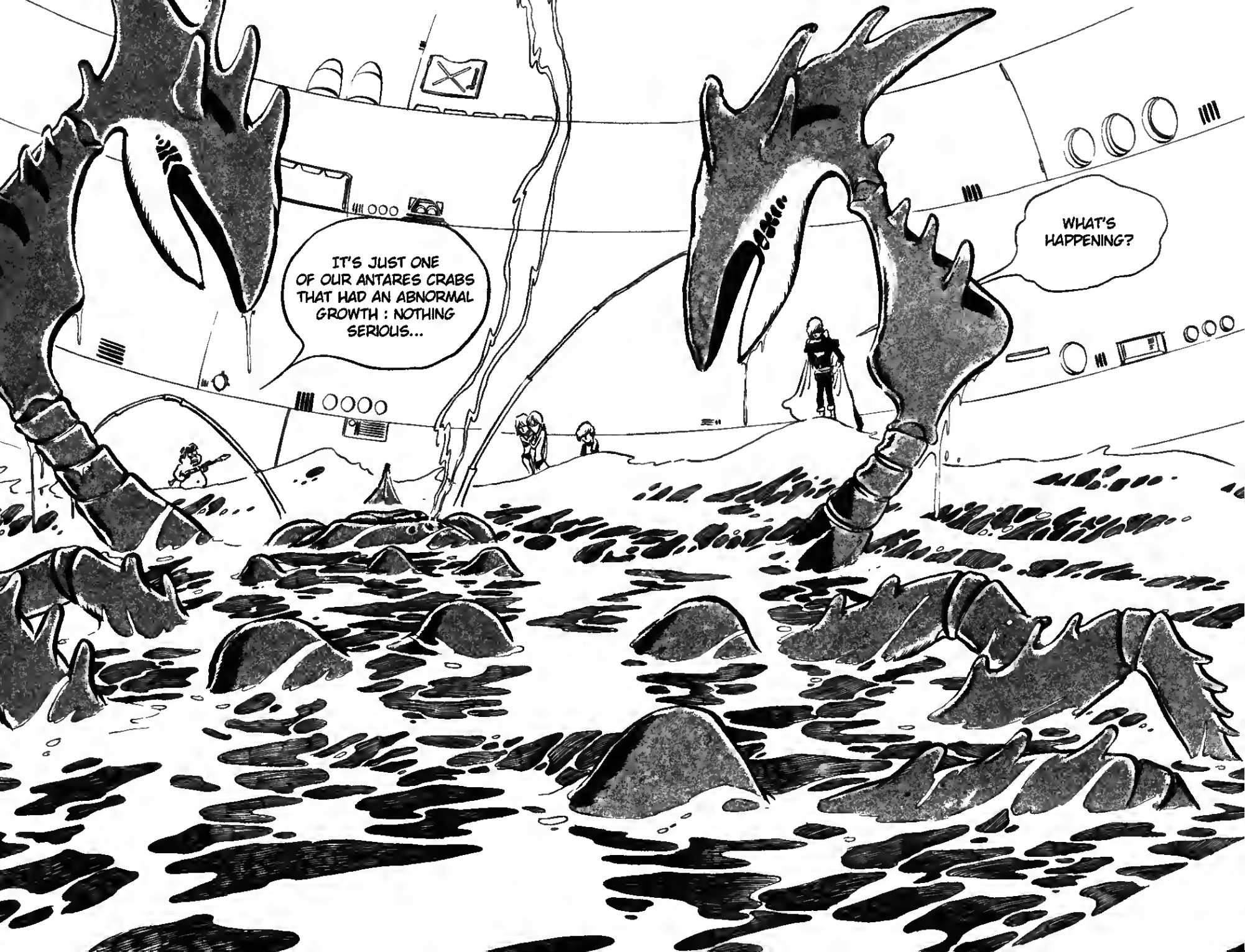

AH!
!!


YEAH! A BIG POOL OF SALTED WATER!
IT'S NOT A HOLO-GRAM... IT'S REAL WATER!!
NOTHING BETTER THAN FRESH SASHIMI! BON APPETIT!
THERE'S MUCH MORE FISH THAN LAST TIME! AND THEY'RE REAL BIG!
YOU KNOW HOW TO SWIM, DON'T YOU?
ARE YOU COMING WITH US, TADASHI?
OF COURSE!

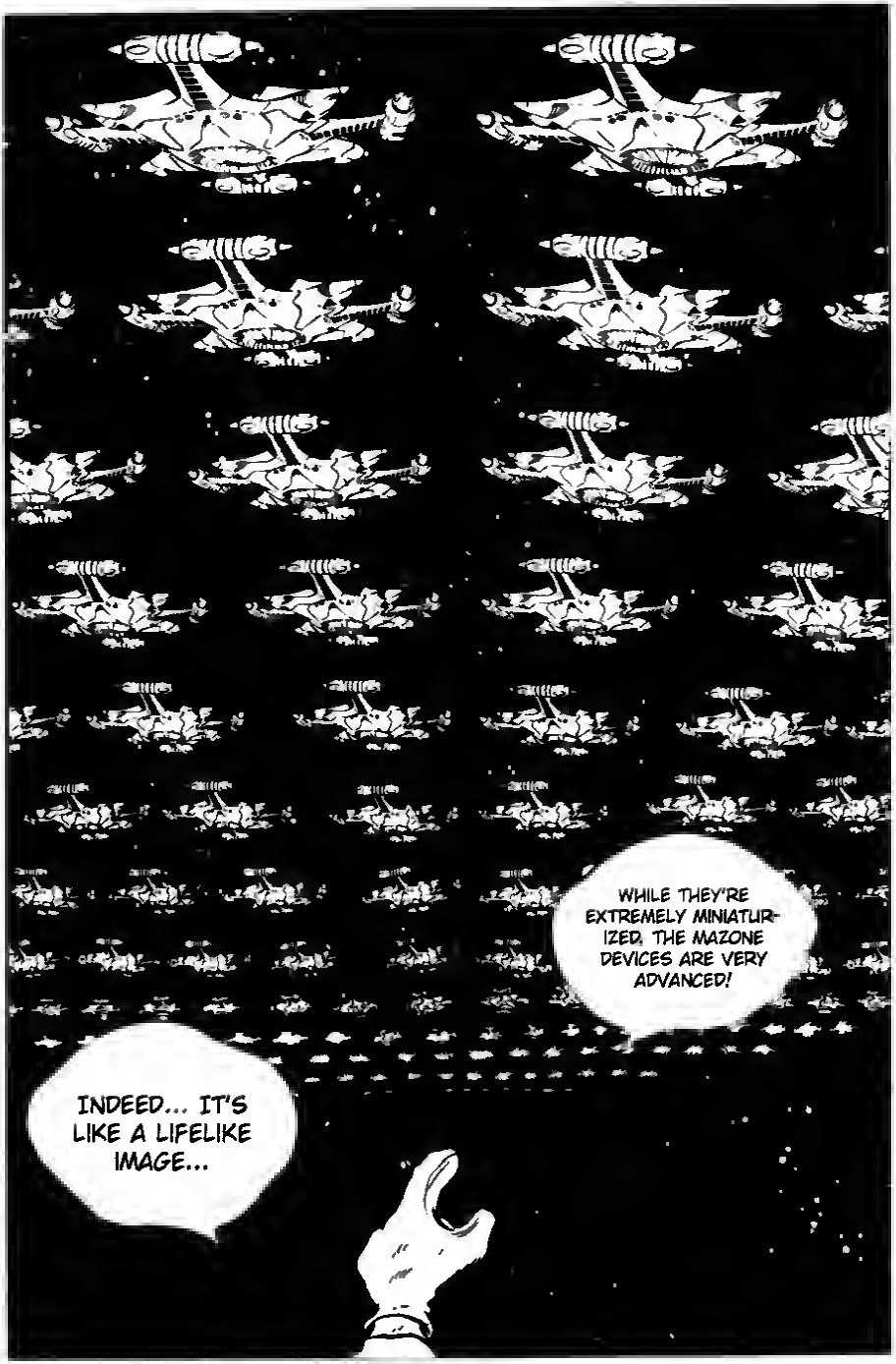

AAAH!!
AH!
MIIME!!!

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!
IT'S DONE CAPTAIN!
WE'VE GOT THE RESULTS OF THE ANALYSIS!

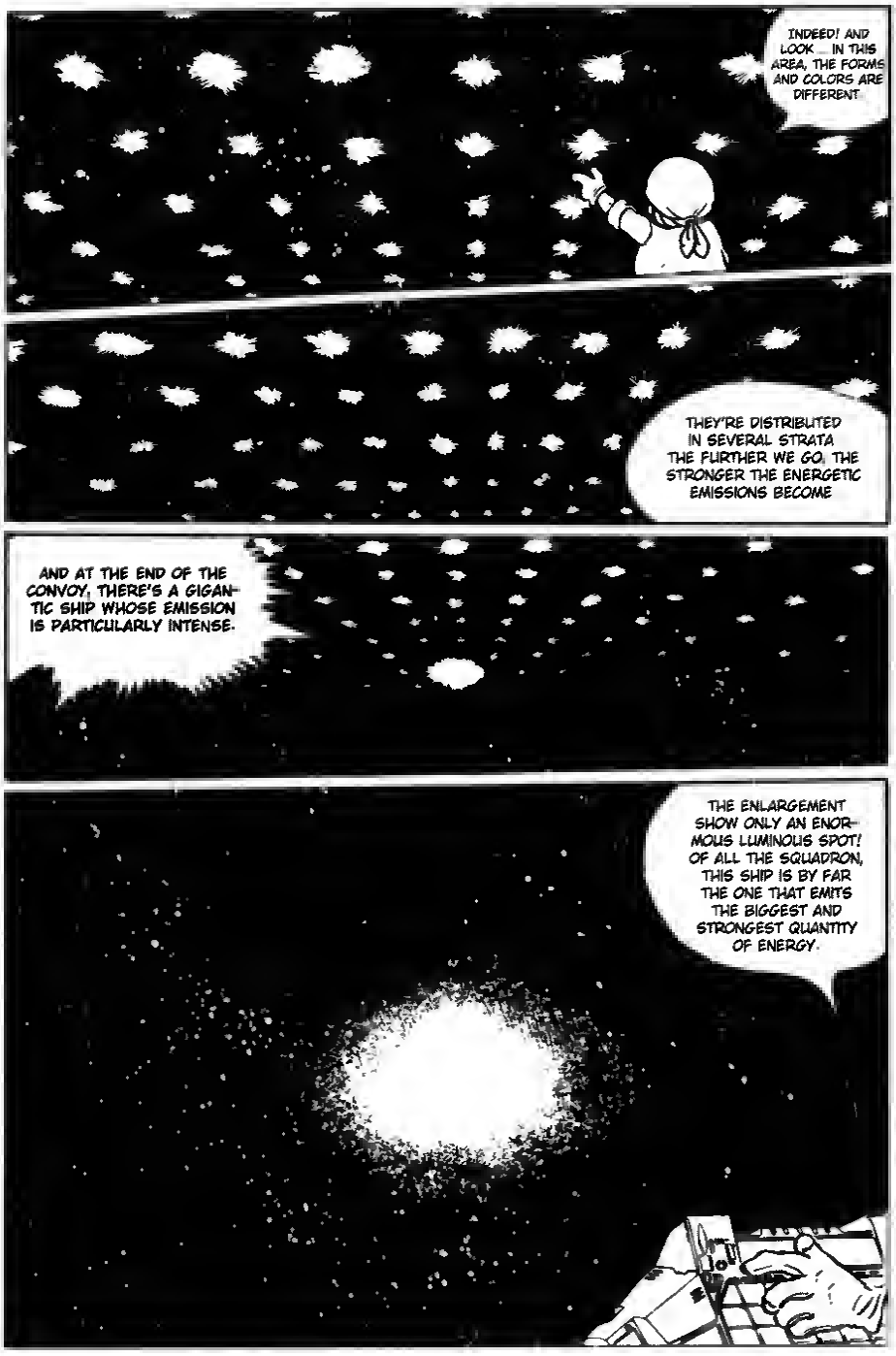

MIIME!


IT'S JUST ONE OF OUR ANTARES CRABS THAT HAD AN ABNORMAL GROWTH : NOTHING SERIOUS...
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

MYEAH... STILL, IT'S TOO BAD.
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.. I ALMOST DIED BACK THERE... IT'S NATURAL THAT I HAVE THE BIGGEST PINCER
OF COURSE IT IS! ONE NEEDS TO EAT TO BE IN GOOD SHAPE!
NEVERTHELESS, IT'S NOT THE TIME TO EAT SOME ANTARES CRAB...
HE DIDN'T LEFT ANY-THING TO CHANCE.
MY FRIEND EVEN THOUGHT OF THE FOOD RESUPPLYING.
RIGHTLY SO! THERE'S REASONS TO BE CONCERNED... BELIEVE ME!
YOU'RE CON-CERNED ABOUT THE MAZONE COSMOGRAPHIC RECORDER?
SHOW IT TO ME.
WHEN I SAW THIS, I THOUGHT MY EYES WERE FAILING ME!
!!
FOLLOWING THE ANALYSIS, A THREE-DIMENSIONAL PROJECTION APPEARED.


WHILE THEY'RE EXTREMELY MINIATURIZED, THE MAZONE DEVICES ARE VERY ADVANCED!
INDEED... IT'S LIKE A LIFELIKE IMAGE...

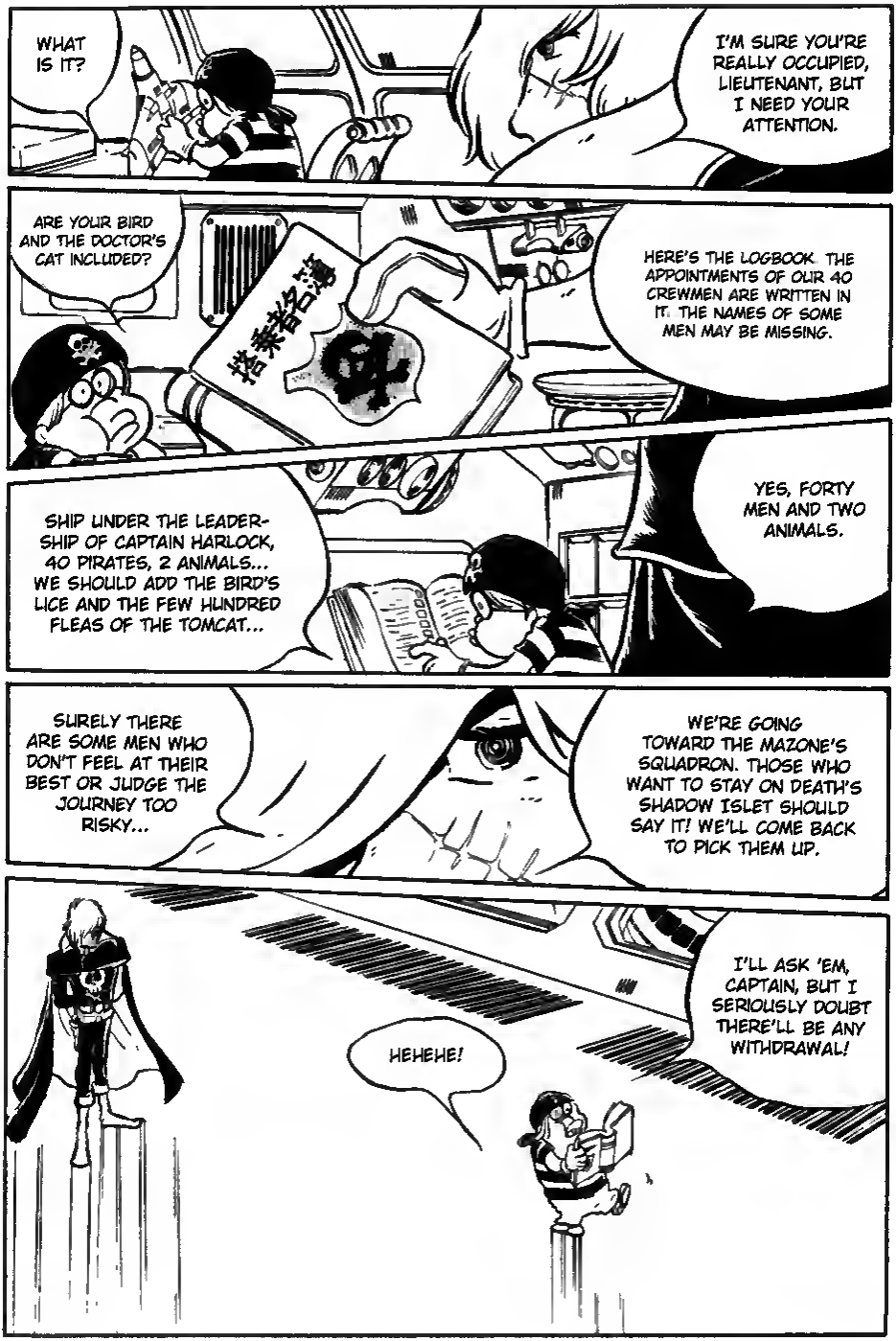
A MASSIVE SQUADRON THAT STRETCHES AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE...
PORM WHAT I CAN TELL, IT'S JUST THE VAN GUARD : THESE SHIPS ARE SMALL-SIZED FIGHTERS AND BATTLESHIPS!

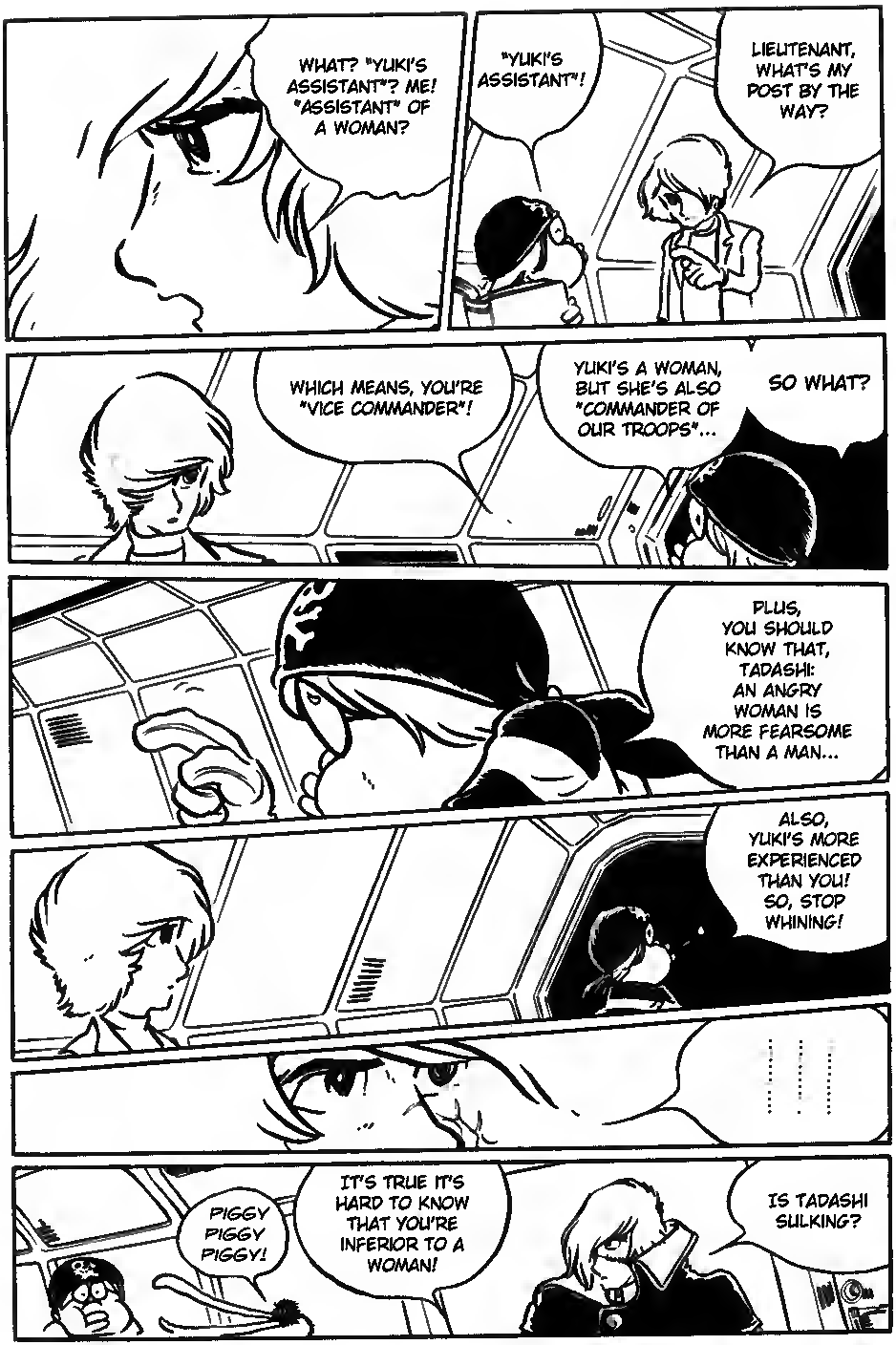

INDEED! AND LOOK... IN THIS AREA, THE FORMS AND COLORS ARE DIFFERENT.
THEY'RE DISTRIBUTED IN SEVERAL STRATA THE FURTHER WE GO, THE STRONGER THE ENERGETIC EMISSIONS BECOME
AND AT THE END OF THE CONVOY, THERE'S A GIGANTIC SHIP WHOSE EMISSION IS PARTICULARLY INTENSE.
THE ENLARGEMENT SHOW ONLY AN ENORMOUS LUMINOUS SPOT! OF ALL THE SQUADRON, THIS SHIP IS BY FAR THE ONE THAT EMITS THE BIGGEST AND STRONGEST QUANTITY OF ENERGY.

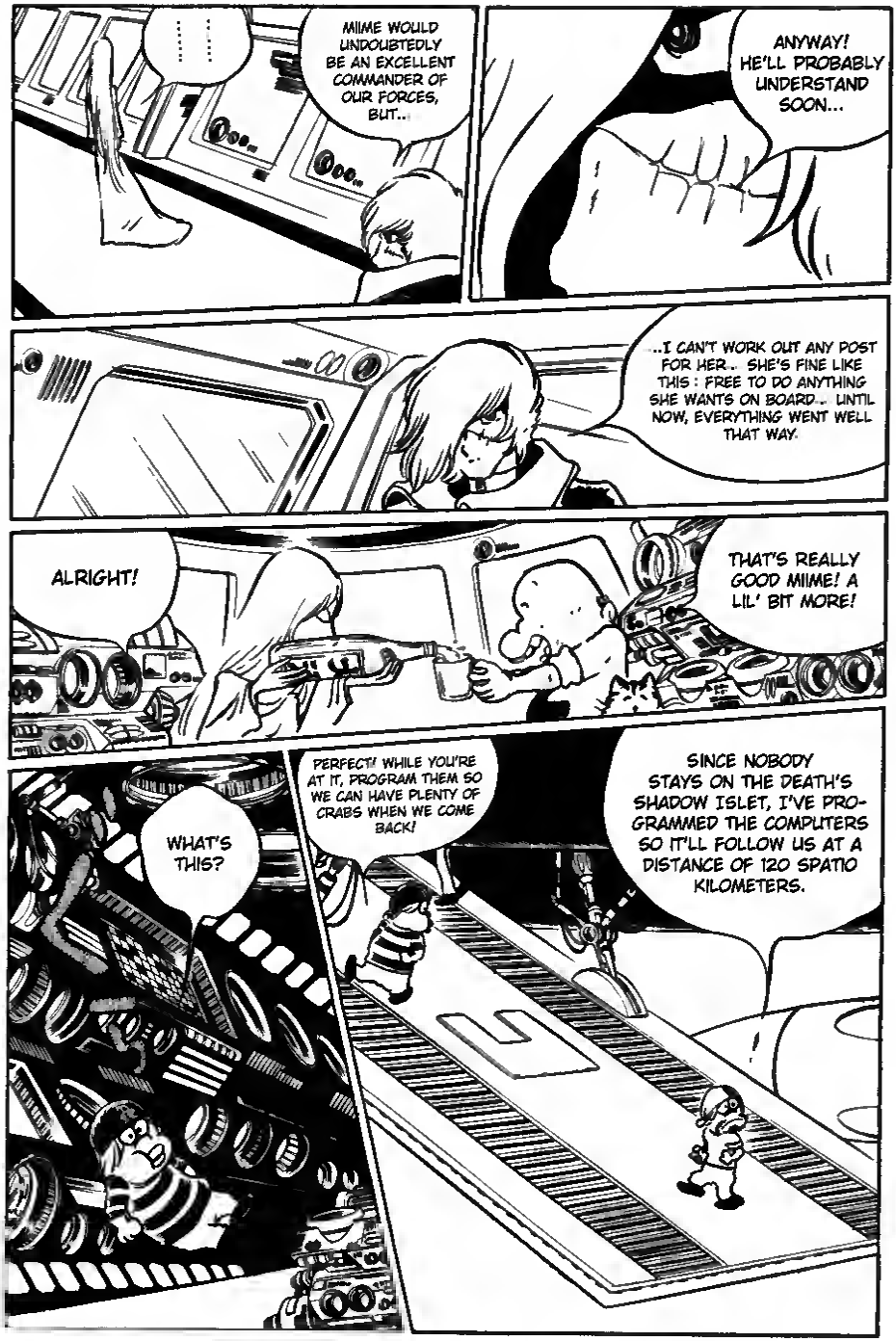
THE ODDS ARE THAT IT'S IN COMMAND OF THE OTHERS... IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S THE FLAGSHIP.
SO THIS IS QUEEN LAFRESIA'S SHIP!!

THE SQUADRON COMES FROM THE GALACTIC CLUSTER OF THE PLEIADES, JUST LIKE THE FIRST SPHERE THAT CRASHED ON EARTH...
BEYOND THIS CLUSTER IS THE RECENTLY DISCOVERED ZONE WHERE BLACK HOLES RESULTING FROM SUPERNOVAE ARE CONCENTRATED.

THE FLAGSHIP'S PICTURE STAYS BLURRED.
THEIR EQUIPMENT WOULD BE EVEN MORE ADVANCED THAN OURS...
LET'S CONTINUE THE RESEARCH NONETHELESS. WHO KNOWS? MAYBE WE'LL MANAGE TO GET A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF LAFRESIA...

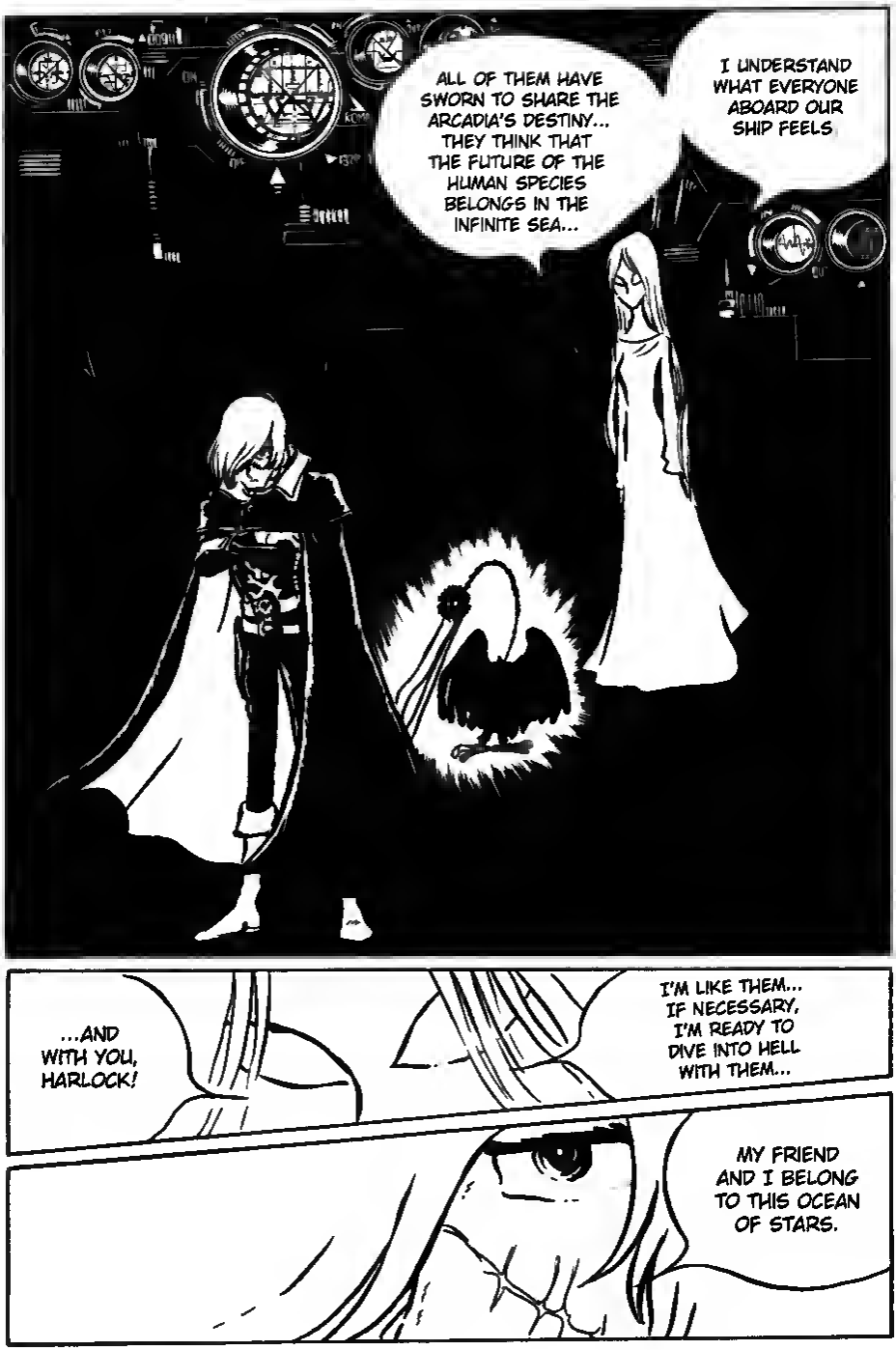

WHAT IS IT?
I'M SURE YOU'RE REALLY OCCUPIED, LIEUTENANT, BUT I NEED YOUR ATTENTION.
ARE YOUR BIRD AND THE DOCTOR'S CAT INCLUDED?
HERE'S THE LOGBOOK. THE APPOINTMENTS OF OUR 40 CREWMEN ARE WRITTEN IN IT. THE NAMES OF SOME MEN MAY BE MISSING.
YES, FORTY MEN AND TWO ANIMALS.
SHIP UNDER THE LEADER-SHIP OF CAPTAIN HARLOCK, 40 PIRATES, 2 ANIMALS... WE SHOULD ADD THE BIRD'S LICE AND THE FEW HUNDRED FLEAS OF THE TOMCAT...
SURELY THERE ARE SOME MEN WHO DON'T FEEL AT THEIR BEST OR JUDGE THE JOURNEY TOO RISKY...
WE'RE GOING TOWARD THE MAZONE'S SQUADRON. THOSE WHO WANT TO STAY ON DEATH'S SHADOW ISLET SHOULD SAY IT! WE'LL COME BACK TO PICK THEM UP.
I'LL ASK 'EM, CAPTAIN, BUT I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THERE'LL BE ANY WITHDRAWAL!
HEHEHE!


WHAT? "YUKI'S ASSISTANT"? ME! "ASSISTANT" OF A WOMAN?
"YUKI'S ASSISTANT"!
LIEUTENANT, WHAT'S MY POST BY THE WAY?
WHICH MEANS, YOU'RE "VICE COMMANDER"!
YUKI'S A WOMAN, BUT SHE'S ALSO "COMMANDER OF OUR TROOPS"...
SO WHAT?
PLUS, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT, TADASHI: AN ANGRY WOMAN IS MORE FEARSOME THAN A MAN...
ALSO, YUKI'S MORE EXPERIENCED THAN YOU! SO, STOP WHINING!
.....
PIGGY PIGGY PIGGY!
IT'S TRUE IT'S HARD TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE INFERIOR TO A WOMAN!
IS TADASHI SULKING?

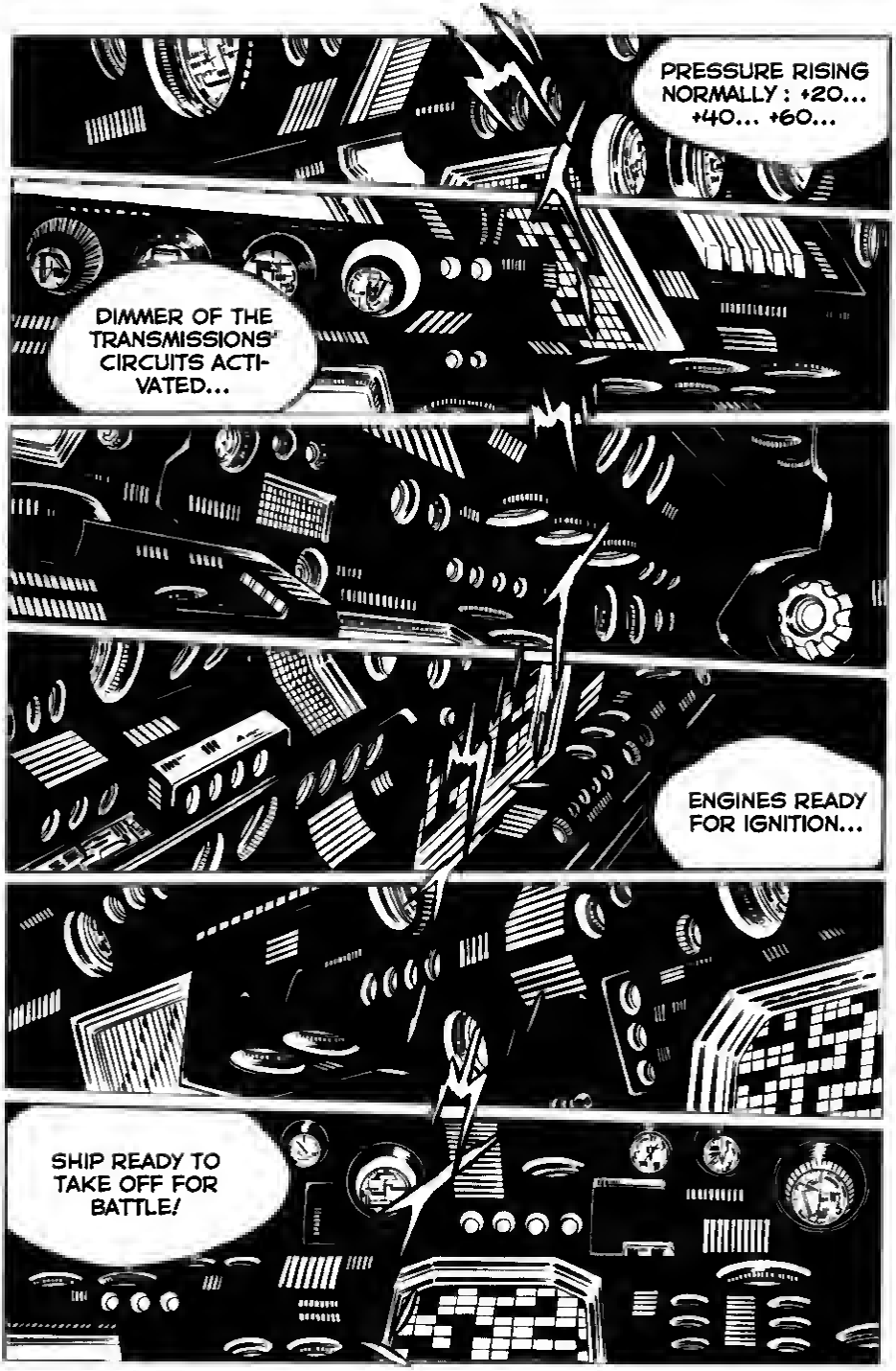

MIIME WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE AN EXCELLENT COMMANDER OF OUR FORCES, BUT...
ANYWAY! HE'LL PROBABLY UNDERSTAND SOON...
...I CAN'T WORK OUT ANY POST FOR HER.. SHE'S FINE LIKE THIS : FREE TO DO ANYTHING SHE WANTS ON BOARD.. UNTIL NOW, EVERYTHING WENT WELL THAT WAY.
ALRIGHT!
THAT'S REALLY GOOD MIIME! A LIL' BIT MORE!
WHAT'S THIS?
PERFECT! WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, PROGRAM THEM SO WE CAN HAVE PLENTY OF CRABS WHEN WE COME BACK!
SINCE NOBODY STAYS ON THE DEATH'S SHADOW ISLET, I'VE PROGRAMMED THE COMPUTERS SO IT'LL FOLLOW US AT A DISTANCE OF 120 SPATIO KILOMETERS.

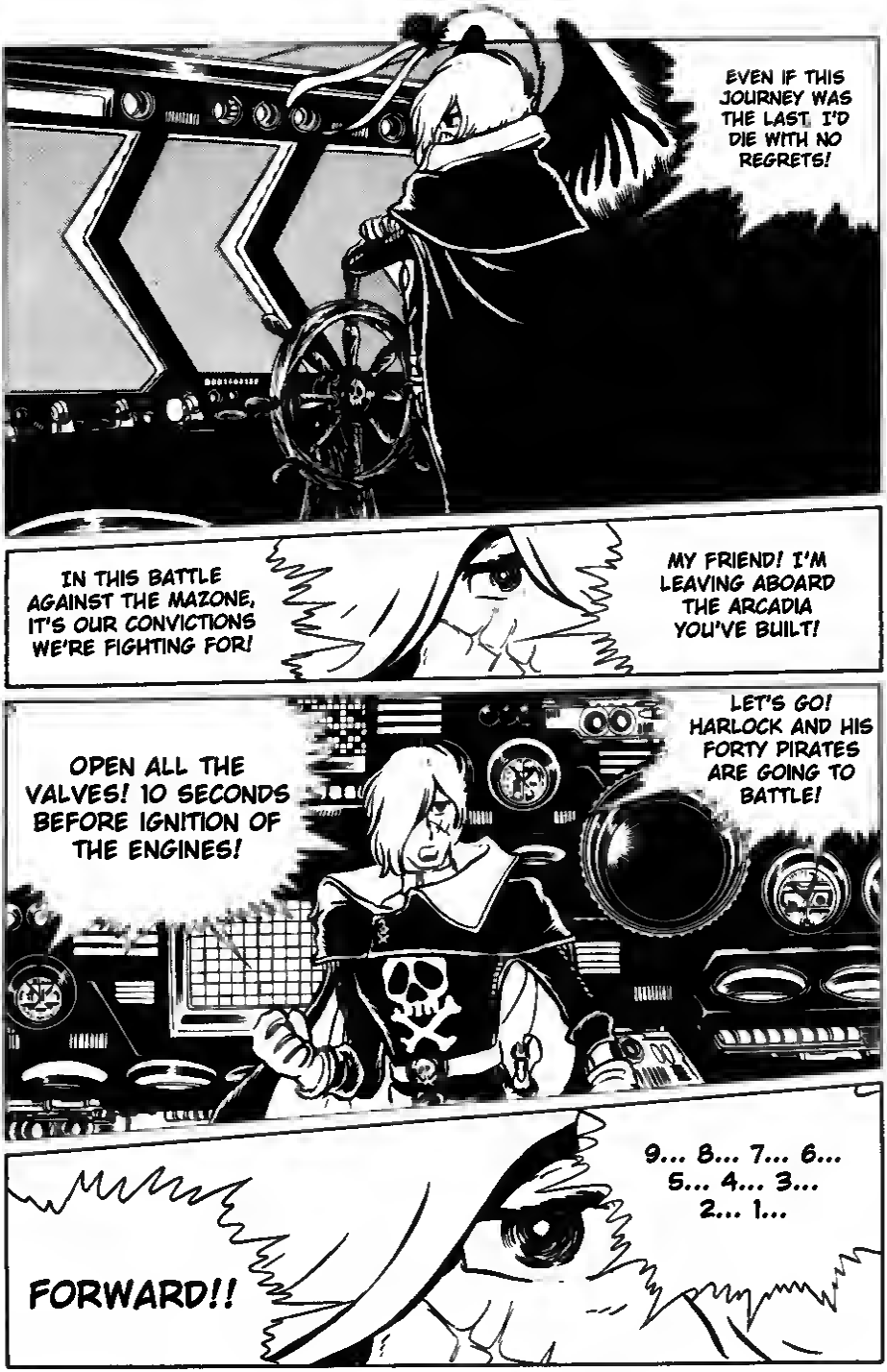
EXTRA PARTS?
EXTRA SPARE PARTS WE'VE LOADED ON BOARD FOR THE ARCADIA.
COME ON! IT'S FAR BETTER, AND WAY MORE EFFICIENT!
BECAUSE IF SO, THERE'LL BE MANY OF US WHO'LL WANT TO GET OFF AND STAY ON DEATH'S SHADOW ISLET!
PLEASE DON'T TELL ME IT'S TO TRANSFORM THE ARCADIA INTO SOME SORT OF OLD-FASHIONED ROBOT?
HARLOCK'S FRIEND, THE ONE WHO BUILT THIS SHIP, HE WAS REALLY AN UNMATCHED GENIUS...
ACTUALLY, THAT'S STRANGE... BUT I HAVE THE FEELING THAT THIS MAN IS STILL ALIVE... AND THAT HE'S WATCHING OVER US ALL...

CANNONS' CHECKING : DONE.
HANDGUNS' INSPECTION : FINISHED.
LOADING OF THE FOOD AND ENERGY SUPPLIES : COMPLETED.
AS USUAL: NOTHING.
WHAT'S HAPPENING ON EARTH?
DIE, YOU PATHETIC SWINES!!


ALL OF THEM HAVE SWORN TO SHARE THE ARCADIA'S DESTINY... THEY THINK THAT THE FUTURE OF THE HUMAN SPECIES BELONGS IN THE INFINITE SEA...
I UNDERSTAND WHAT EVERYONE ABOARD OUR SHIP FEELS
...AND WITH YOU, HARLOCK!
I'M LIKE THEM... IF NECESSARY, I'M READY TO DIVE INTO HELL WITH THEM...
MY FRIEND AND I BELONG TO THIS OCEAN OF STARS.

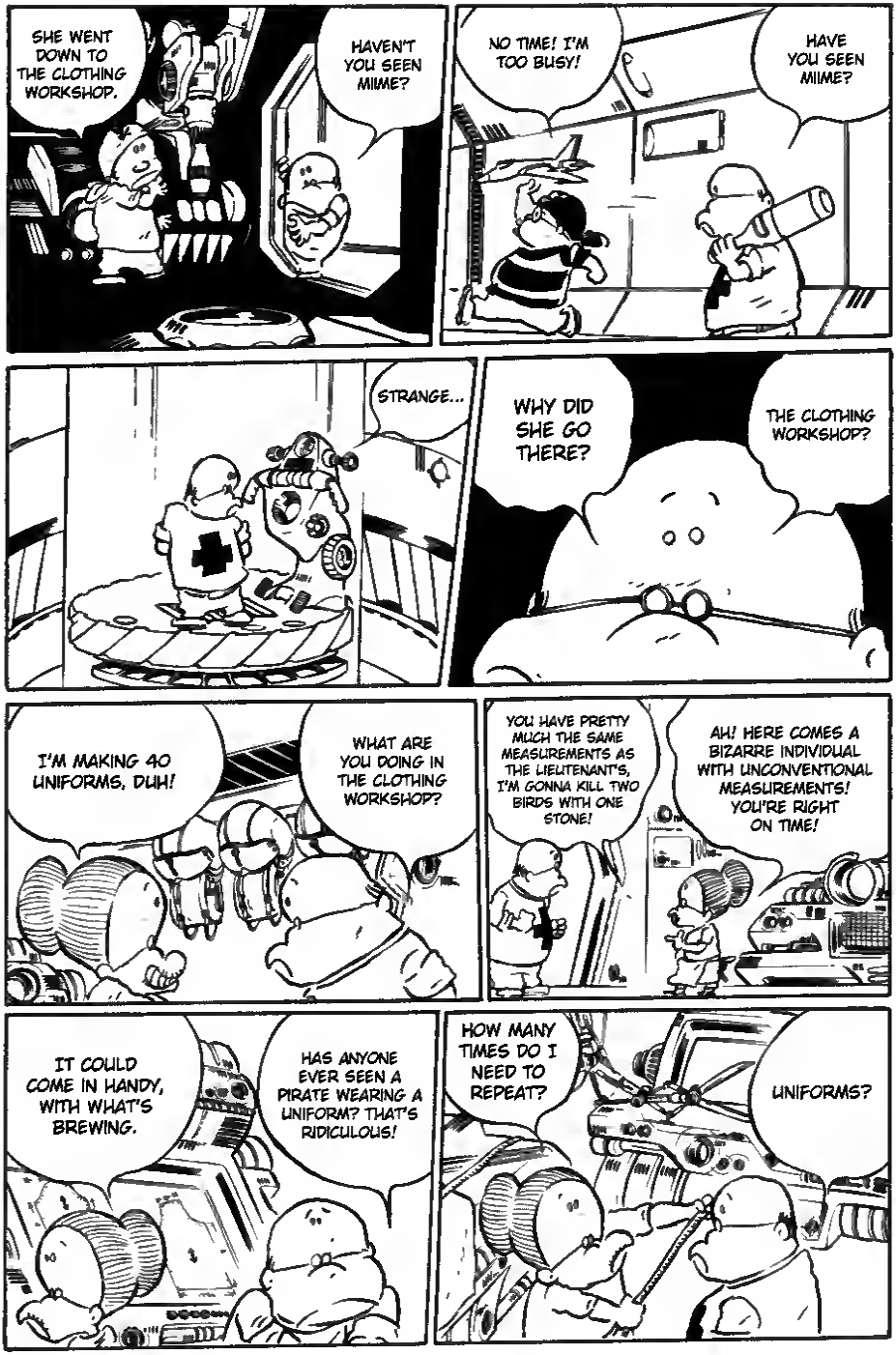
THE FUTURE... THE DREAM TO WHICH WE DEVOTE OUR LIFE, IS AMONGST THESE STARS...
THAT'S WHY I DON'T FEAR TO TRAVEL IN THIS UNIVERSE...

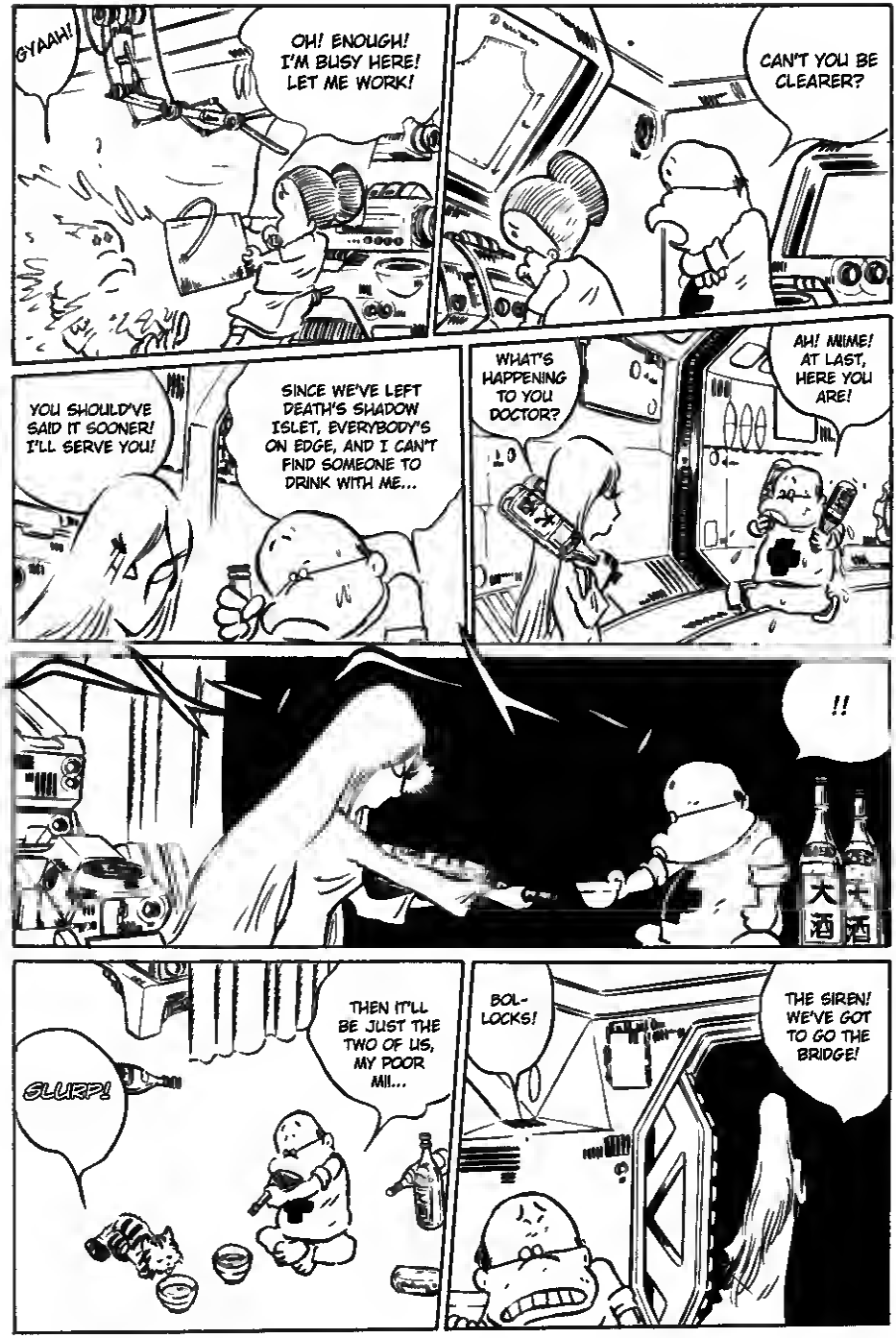

PRESSURE RISING NORMALLY : +20... +40... +60...
DIMMER OF THE TRANSMISSIONS' CIRCUITS ACTIVATED...
ENGINES READY FOR IGNITION...
SHIP READY TO TAKE OFF FOR BATTLE!


EVEN IF THIS JOURNEY WAS THE LAST, I'D DIE WITH NO REGRETS!
IN THIS BATTLE AGAINST THE MAZONE, IT'S OUR CONVICTIONS WE'RE FIGHTING FOR!
MY FRIEND! I'M LEAVING ABOARD THE ARCADIA YOU'VE BUILT!
OPEN ALL THE VALVES! 10 SECONDS BEFORE IGNITION OF THE ENGINES!
LET'S GO! HARLOCK AND HIS FORTY PIRATES ARE GOING TO BATTLE!
9... 8... 7... 6... 5... 4... 3... 2... 1...
FORWARD!!

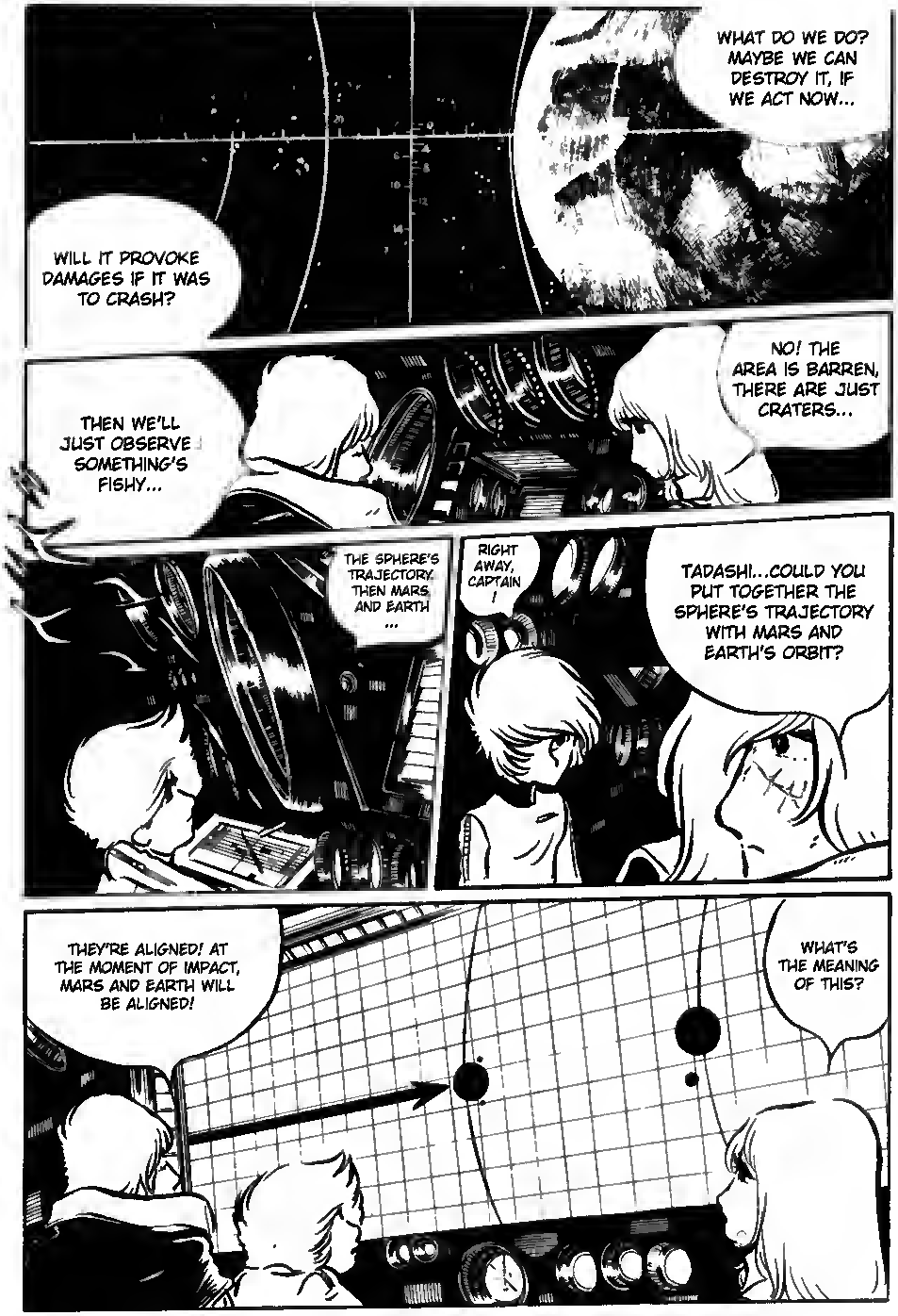
HARLOCK AND HIS FORTY CREW-MATES ARE PROPELLED IN SPACE ABOARD THE ARCADIA. THEY'RE HEADING TOWARD THE MAZONE'S ARMADA. BECOMING GRAVITATIONAL WAVES, THE ENGINES' PULSATIONS BEAT THE TIME OF THE CHANT OF FREEDOM PROCLAIMED BY THE PROUD PIRATE CAPTAIN.

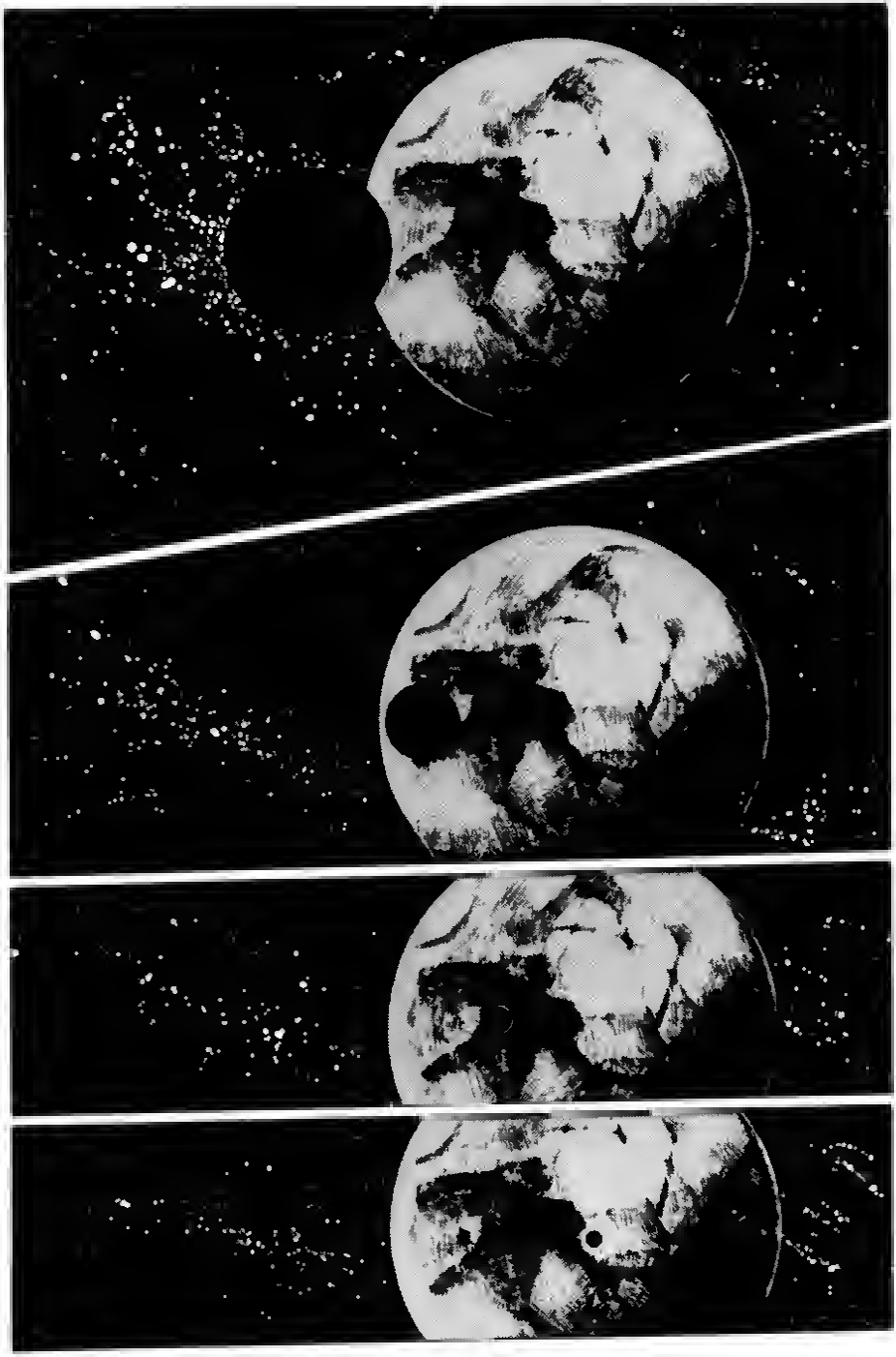
COURSE CORRECT!
WE'RE GOING TO CROSS
THE MARTIAN'S ORBIT
SOON... SPEED : -7,7...


SHE WENT DOWN TO THE CLOTHING WORKSHOP.
HAVEN'T YOU SEEN MIIME?
NO TIME! I'M TOO BUSY!
HAVE YOU SEEN MIIME?
STRANGE...
WHY DID SHE GO THERE?
THE CLOTHING WORKSHOP?
I'M MAKING 40 UNIFORMS, DUH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE CLOTHING WORKSHOP?
YOU HAVE PRETTY MUCH THE SAME MEASUREMENTS AS THE LIEUTENANT'S, I'M GONNA KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!
AH! HERE COMES A BIZARRE INDIVIDUAL WITH UNCONVENTIONAL MEASUREMENTS! YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME!
IT COULD COME IN HANDY, WITH WHAT'S BREWING.
HAS ANYONE EVER SEEN A PIRATE WEARING A UNIFORM? THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I NEED TO REPEAT?
UNIFORMS?

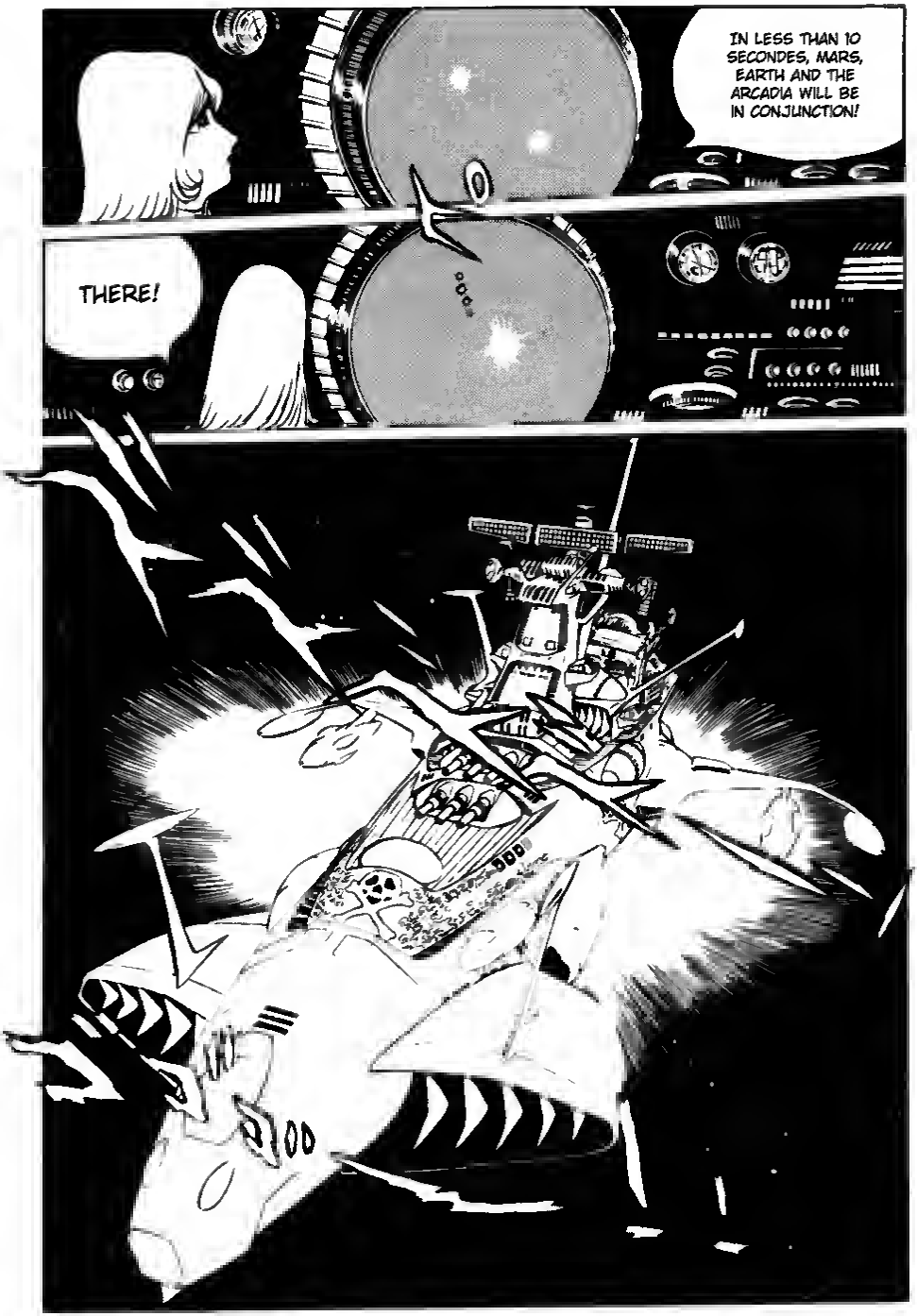

GYAAH!
OH! ENOUGH! I'M BUSY HERE! LET ME WORK!
CAN'T YOU BE CLEARER?
YOU SHOULD'VE SAID IT SOONER! I'LL SERVE YOU!
SINCE WE'VE LEFT DEATH'S SHADOW ISLET, EVERYBODY'S ON EDGE, AND I CAN'T FIND SOMEONE TO DRINK WITH ME...
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU DOCTOR?
AH! MIME! AT LAST, HERE YOU ARE!
!!
大酒
大酒
SLURP!
THEN IT'LL BE JUST THE TWO OF US, MY POOR MII...
BOL-LOCKS!
THE SIREN! WE'VE GOT TO GO THE BRIDGE!

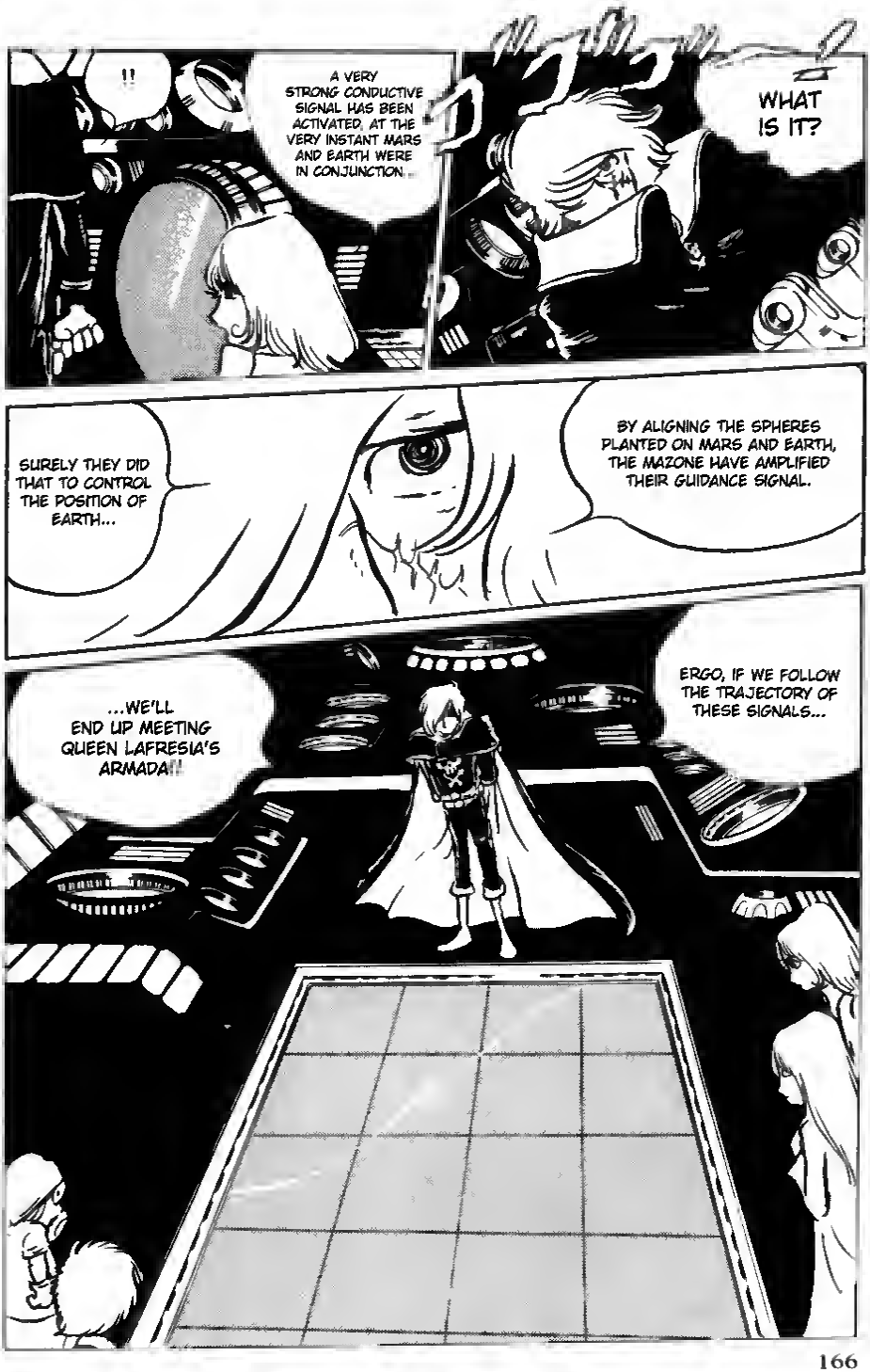
A BLACK SPHERE, IDENTICAL TO THE ONE THAT CRASHED ON EARTH, IS APPROACHING!!
WHERE'S IT HEADING?
ESTIMATED CRASH POINT : THE FERROUS CRATERS OF MARS!

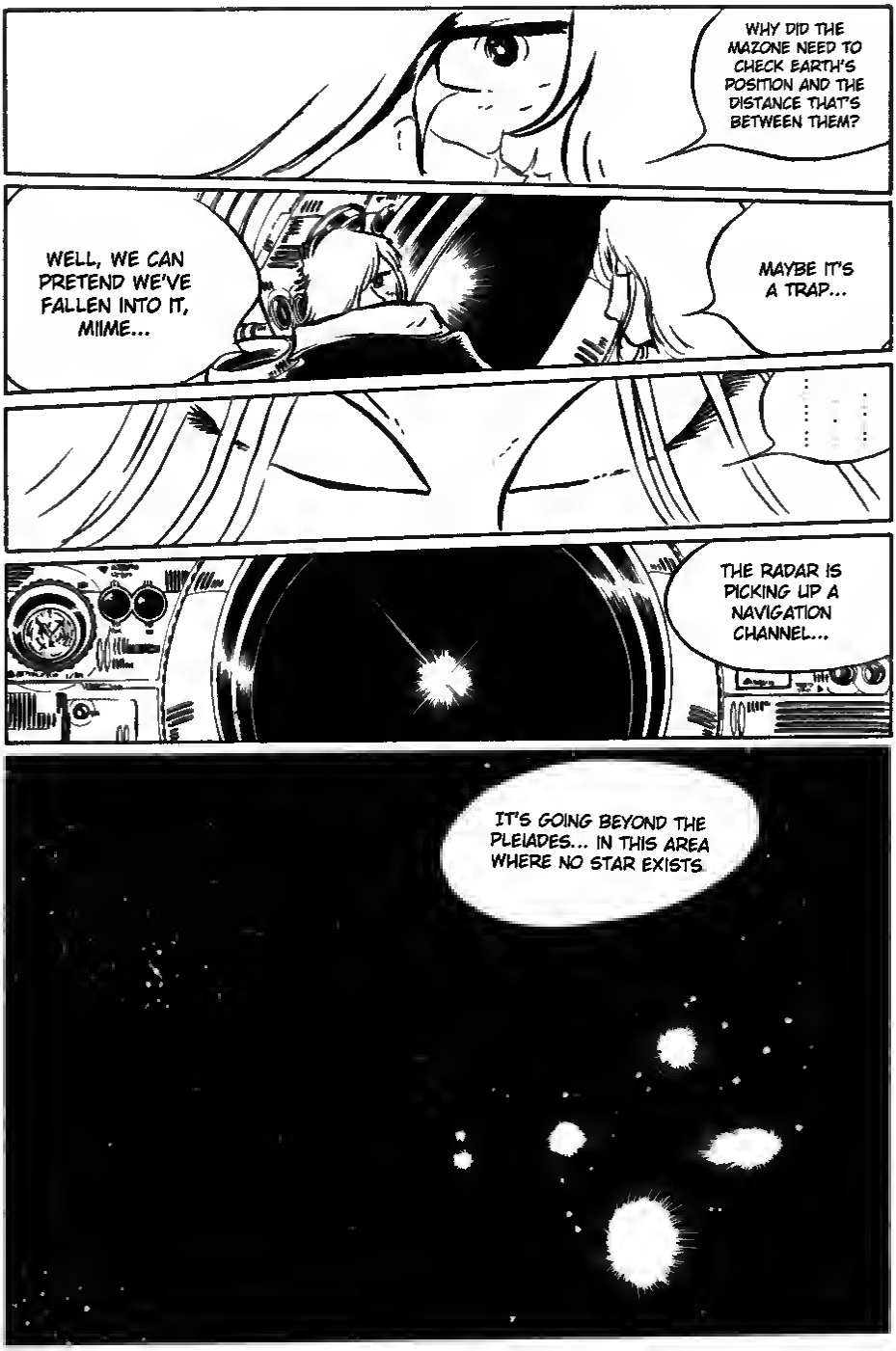

WHAT DO WE DO? MAYBE WE CAN DESTROY IT, IF WE ACT NOW...
WILL IT PROVOKE DAMAGES IF IT WAS TO CRASH?
NO! THE AREA IS BARREN, THERE ARE JUST CRATERS...
THEN WE'LL JUST OBSERVE SOMETHING'S FISHY...
THE SPHERE'S TRAJECTORY, THEN MARS AND EARTH ...
RIGHT AWAY, CAPTAIN !
TADASHI...COULD YOU PUT TOGETHER THE SPHERE'S TRAJECTORY WITH MARS AND EARTH'S ORBIT?
THEY'RE ALIGNED! AT THE MOMENT OF IMPACT, MARS AND EARTH WILL BE ALIGNED!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?

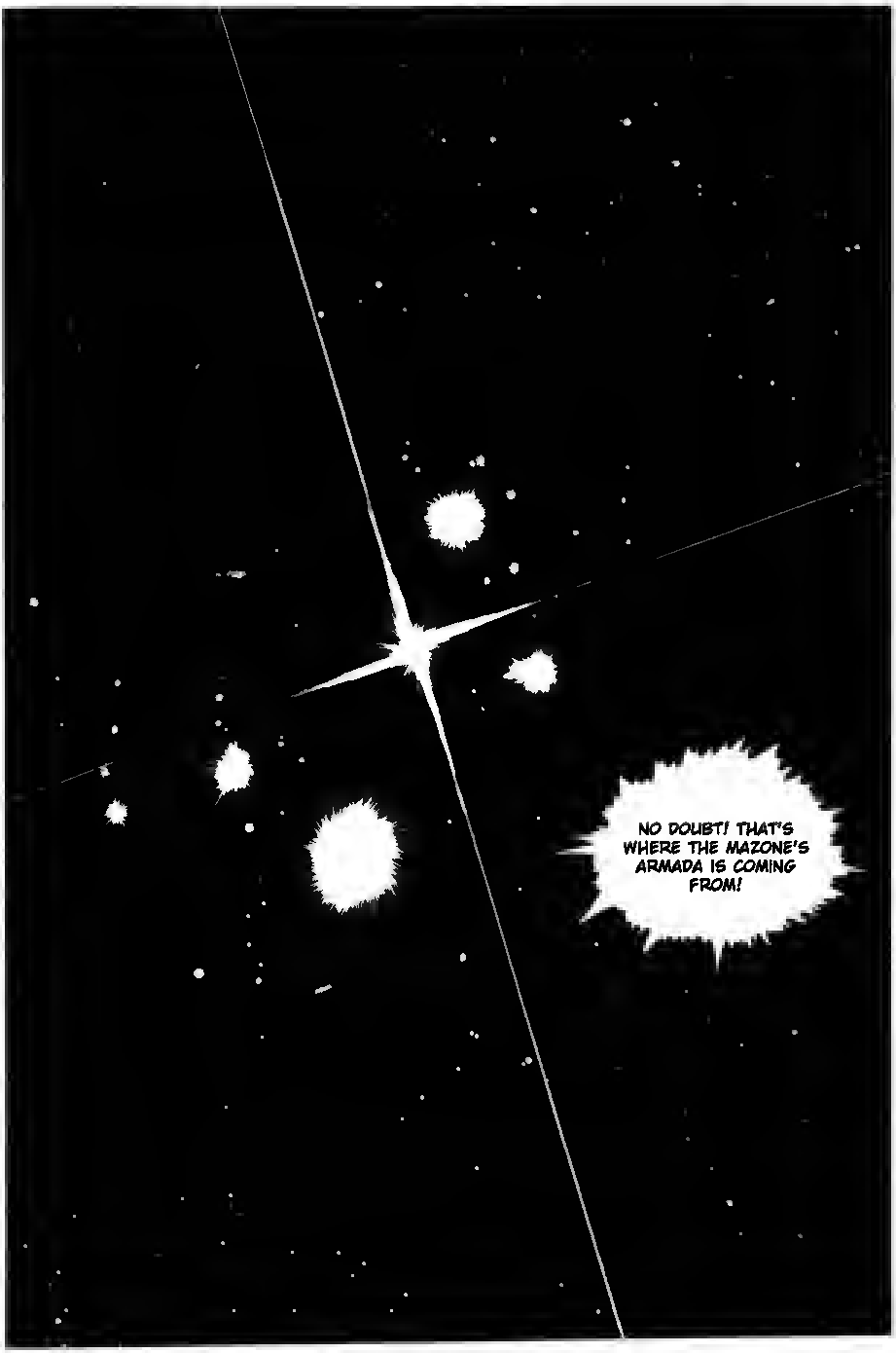


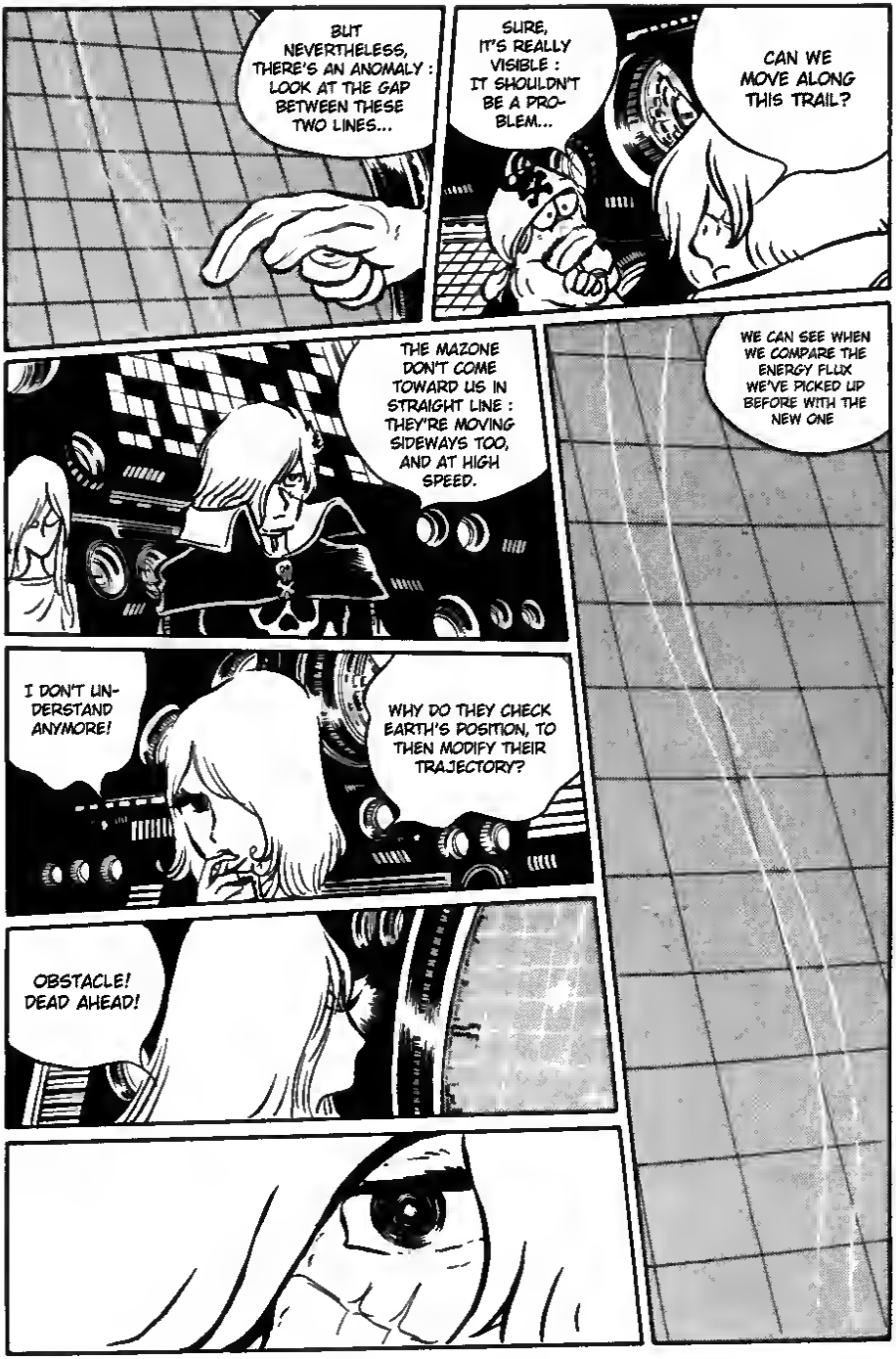
THE SPHERE CRASHED ON MARS!


IN LESS THAN 10 SECONDES, MARS, EARTH AND THE ARCADIA WILL BE IN CONJUNCTION!
THERE!

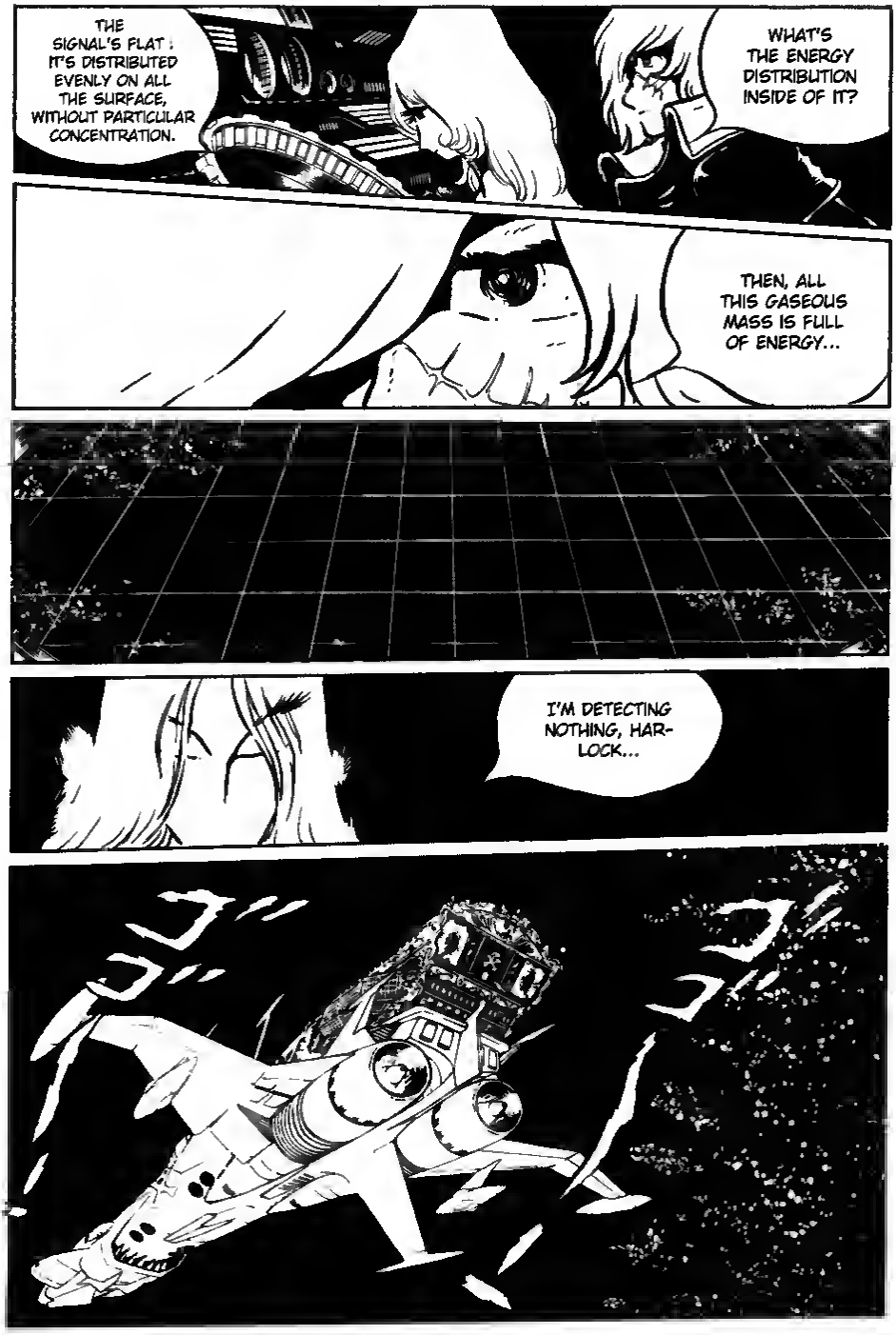

!!
A VERY STRONG CONDUCTIVE SIGNAL HAS BEEN ACTIVATED, AT THE VERY INSTANT MARS AND EARTH WERE IN CONJUNCTION.
WHAT IS IT?
SURELY THEY DID THAT TO CONTROL THE POSITION OF EARTH...
BY ALIGNING THE SPHERES PLANTED ON MARS AND EARTH, THE MAZONE HAVE AMPLIFIED THEIR GUIDANCE SIGNAL.
...WE'LL END UP MEETING QUEEN LAFRESIA'S ARMADA!!
ERGO, IF WE FOLLOW THE TRAJECTORY OF THESE SIGNALS...


WHY DID THE MAZONE NEED TO CHECK EARTH'S POSITION AND THE DISTANCE THAT'S BETWEEN THEM?
WELL, WE CAN PRETEND WE'VE FALLEN INTO IT, MIIME...
MAYBE IT'S A TRAP...
THE RADAR IS PICKING UP A NAVIGATION CHANNEL...
IT'S GOING BEYOND THE PLEIADES... IN THIS AREA WHERE NO STAR EXISTS

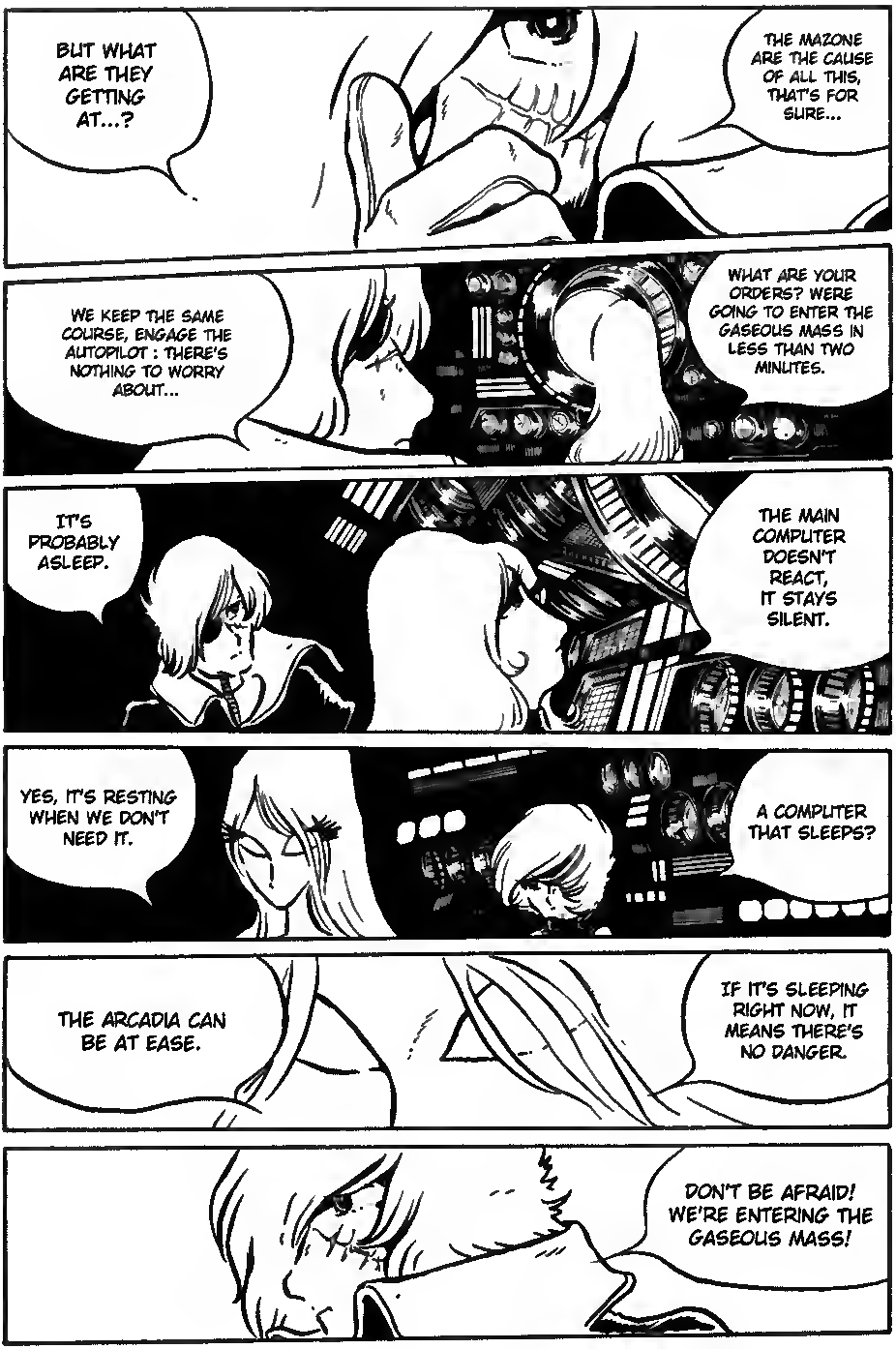

NO DOUBT! THAT'S WHERE THE MAZONE'S ARMADA IS COMING FROM!

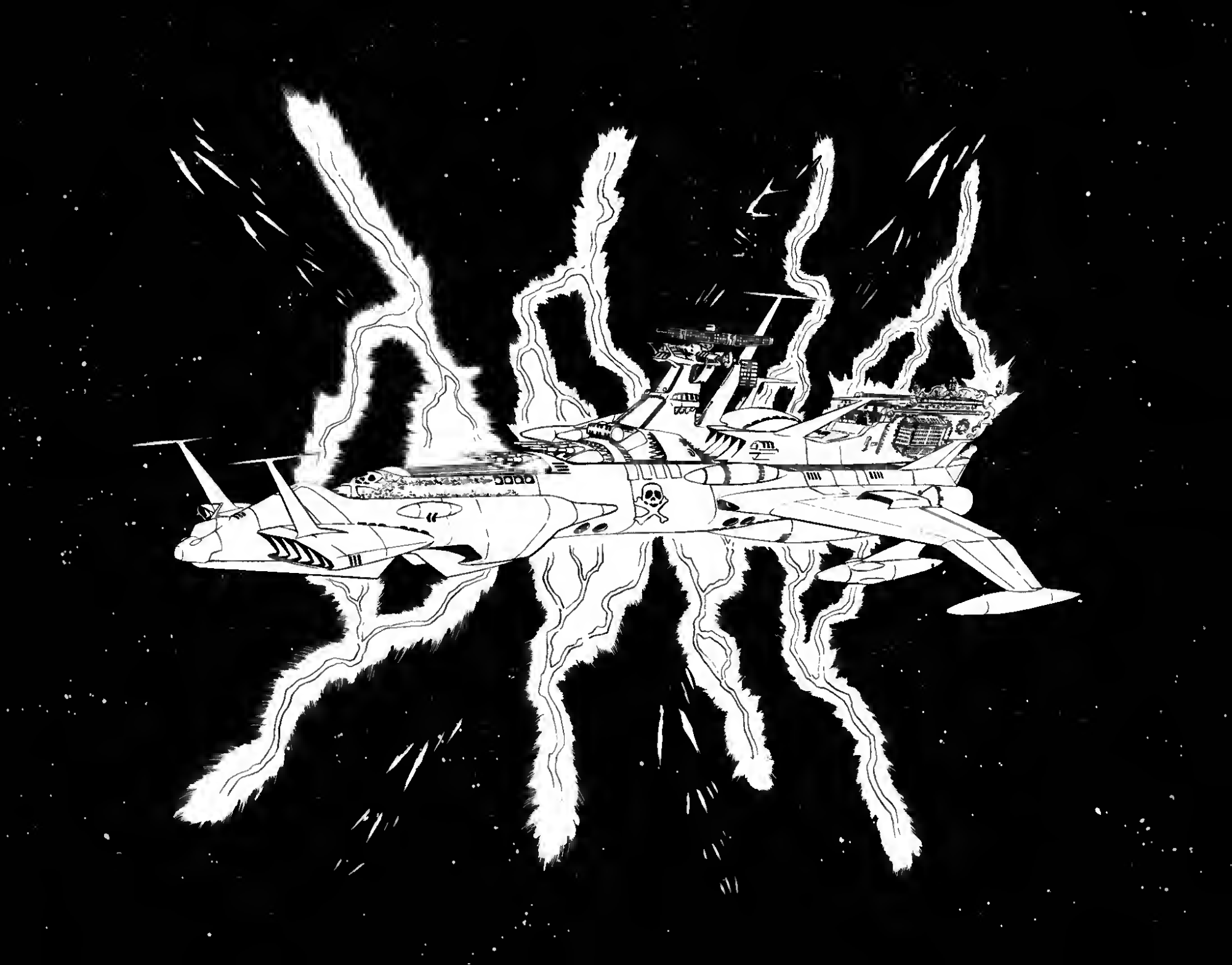

BUT NEVERTHELESS, THERE'S AN ANOMALY : LOOK AT THE GAP BETWEEN THESE TWO LINES...
SURE, IT'S REALLY VISIBLE : IT SHOULDN'T BE A PRO-BLEM...
CAN WE MOVE ALONG THIS TRAIL?
THE MAZONE DON'T COME TOWARD US IN STRAIGHT LINE : THEY'RE MOVING SIDEWAYS TOO, AND AT HIGH SPEED.
WE CAN SEE WHEN WE COMPARE THE ENERGY FLUX WE'VE PICKED UP BEFORE WITH THE NEW ONE
I DON'T UN-DERSTAND ANYMORE!
WHY DO THEY CHECK EARTH'S POSITION, TO THEN MODIFY THEIR TRAJECTORY?
OBSTACLE! DEAD AHEAD!

WE MUST CHANGE OUR COURSE!!!
PORT-SIDE! NOW!

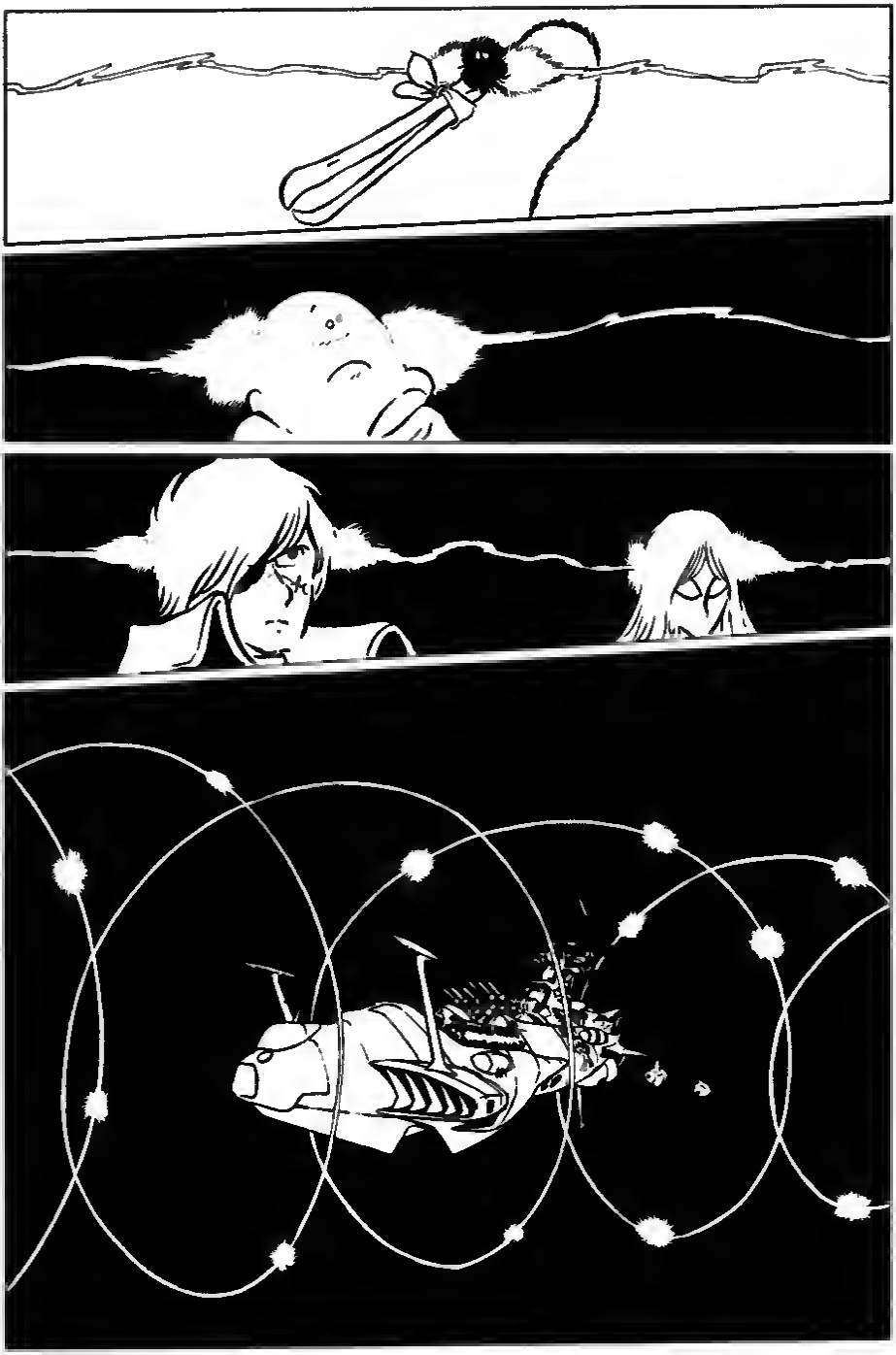

THE SIGNAL'S FLAT : IT'S DISTRIBUTED EVENLY ON ALL THE SURFACE, WITHOUT PARTICULAR CONCENTRATION.
WHAT'S THE ENERGY DISTRIBUTION INSIDE OF IT?
THEN, ALL THIS GASEOUS MASS IS FULL OF ENERGY...
I'M DETECTING NOTHING, HARLOCK...

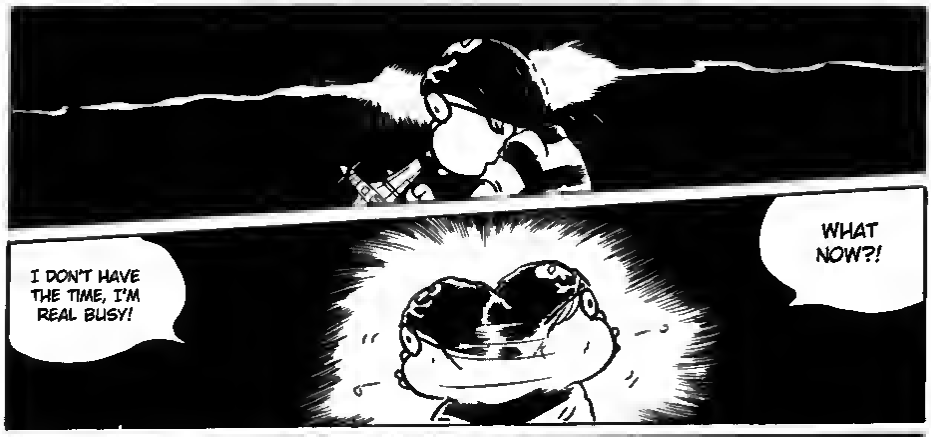
THEY'RE BEATING DOWN ON THE ENTIRE SURFACE BUT SINCE THE ENERGY IS REALLY DIFFUSED, THEY AREN'T DOING ANY DAMAGE.
FAINT GRAVITATIONAL WAVES ARE HITTING THE HULL.
IT'S LIKE SOUND COMING OUT OF LOUD-SPEAKERS...
NOTHING EITHER FROM THE ARMAMENT'S CIRCUITS.
NO ANOMALY FROM THE ENGINE NOR THE GENERATOR.
I GUESS ...
...I'D SAY THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR.
NO WOUNDED IN THE INFIRMARY.
NOTHING TO REPORT, NEITHER FOR THE CLOTHING WORKSHOP, NOR FOR THE GALLY.


BUT WHAT ARE THEY GETTING AT...?
THE MAZONE ARE THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS, THAT'S FOR SURE...
WE KEEP THE SAME COURSE, ENGAGE THE AUTOPILOT : THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT...
WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS? WERE GOING TO ENTER THE GASEOUS MASS IN LESS THAN TWO MINUTES.
IT'S PROBABLY ASLEEP.
THE MAIN COMPUTER DOESN'T REACT, IT STAYS SILENT.
YES, IT'S RESTING WHEN WE DON'T NEED IT.
A COMPUTER THAT SLEEPS?
THE ARCADIA CAN BE AT EASE.
IF IT'S SLEEPING RIGHT NOW, IT MEANS THERE'S NO DANGER.
DON'T BE AFRAID! WE'RE ENTERING THE GASEOUS MASS!



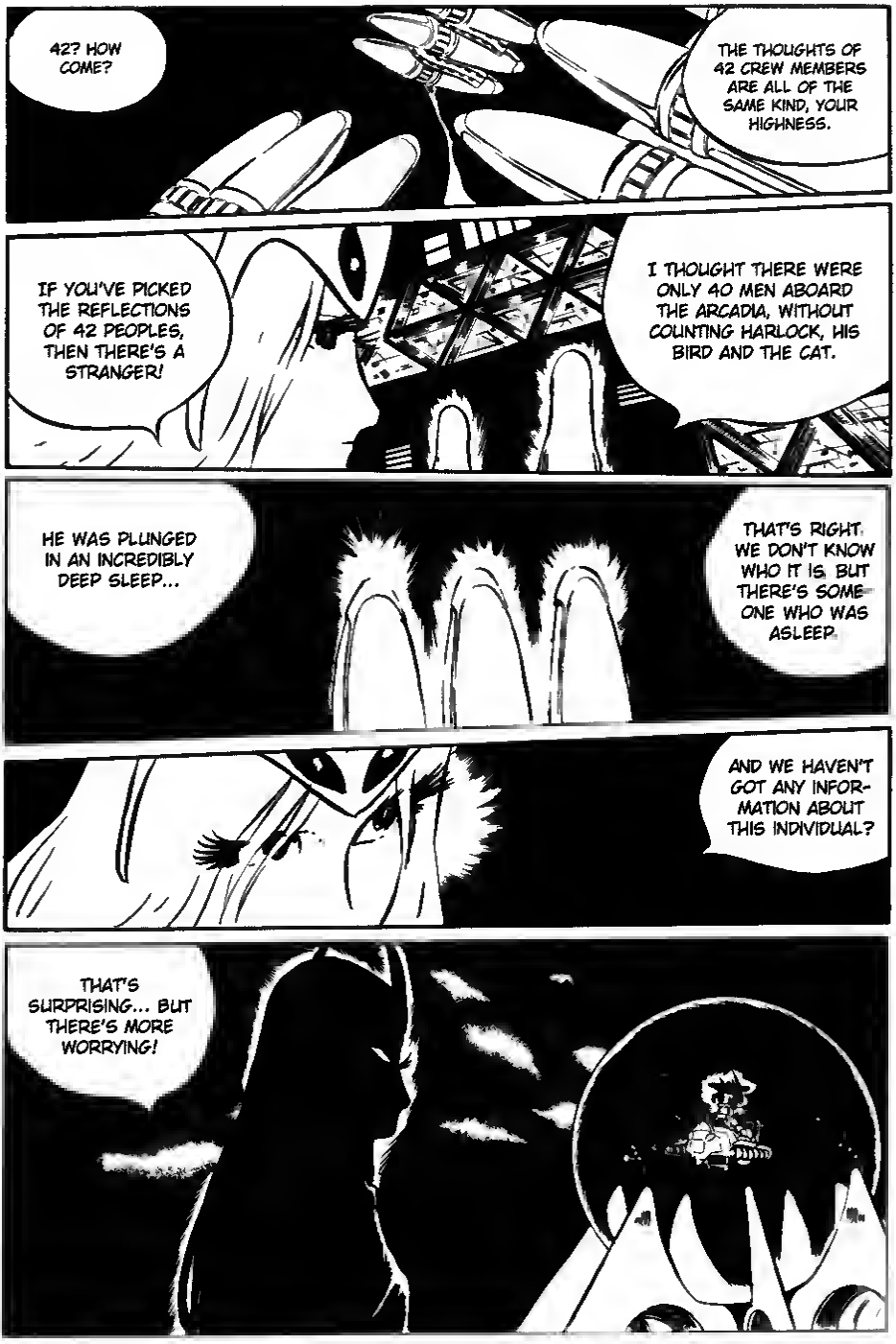
IT'S A SPATIAL STORM, A BIT LIKE AN ATMOSPHERIC ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE.
THE ARCADIA'S HULL DOESN'T FEAR A FEW LIGHTNINGS...

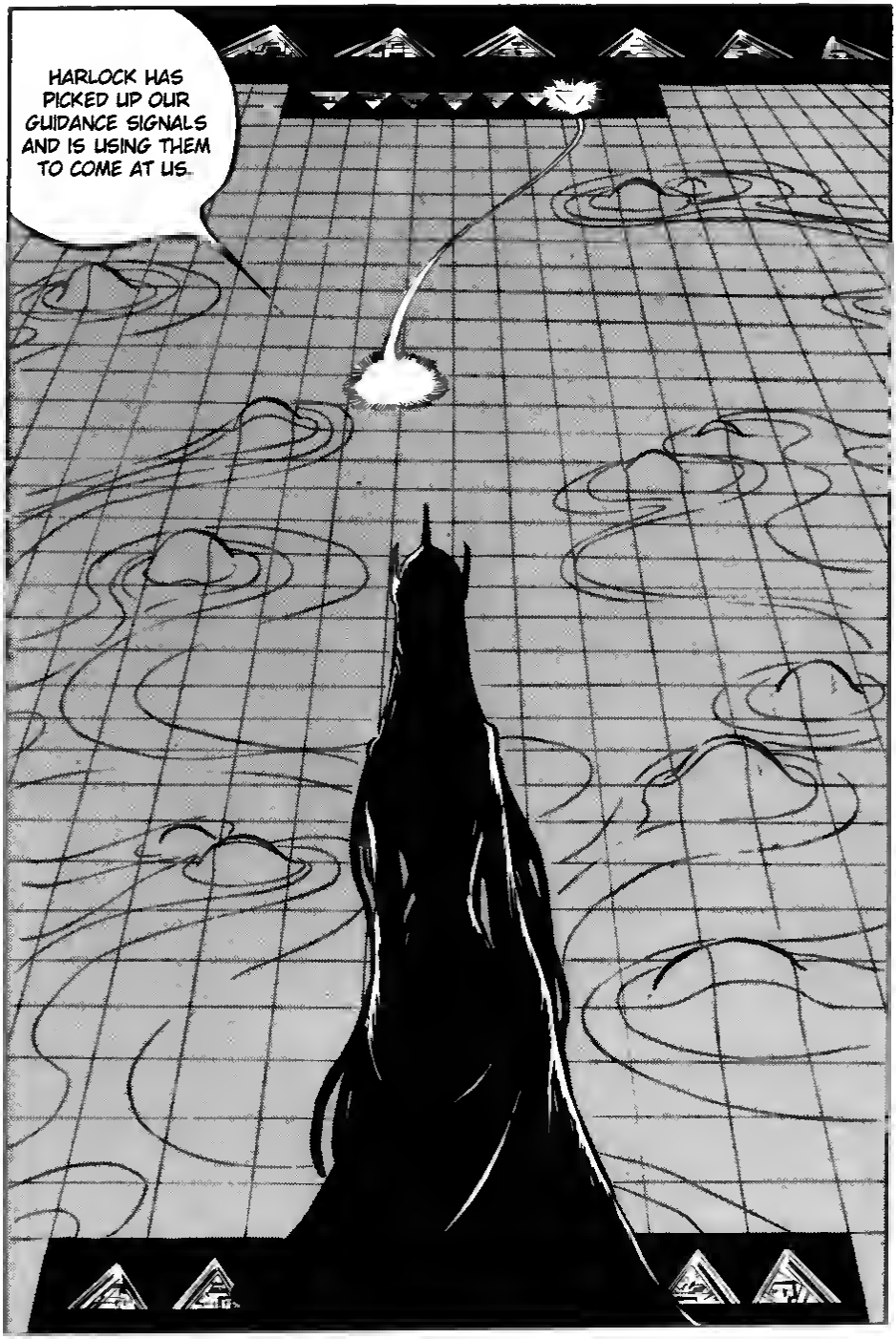


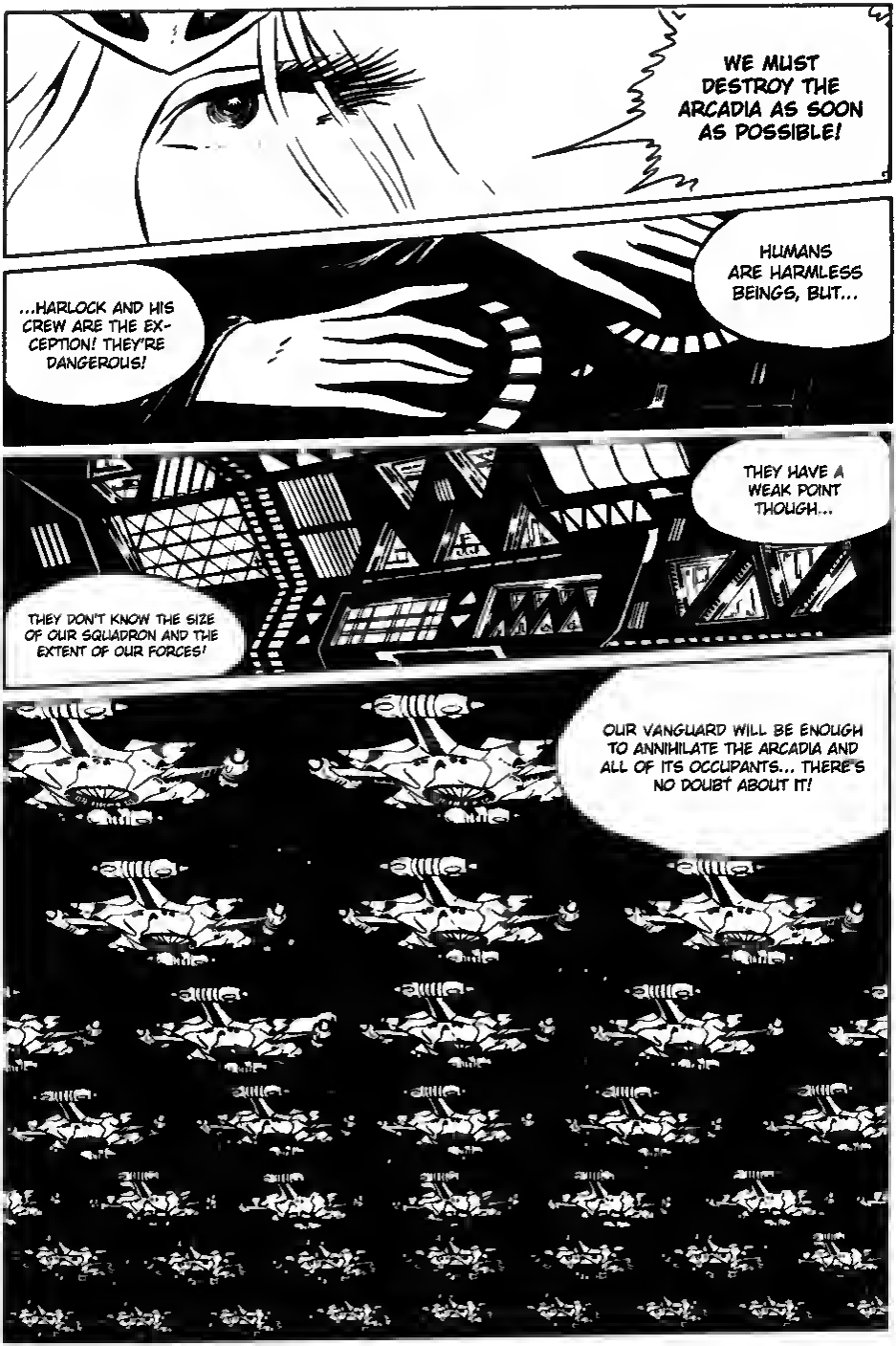

I DON'T HAVE THE TIME, I'M REAL BUSY!
WHAT NOW?!

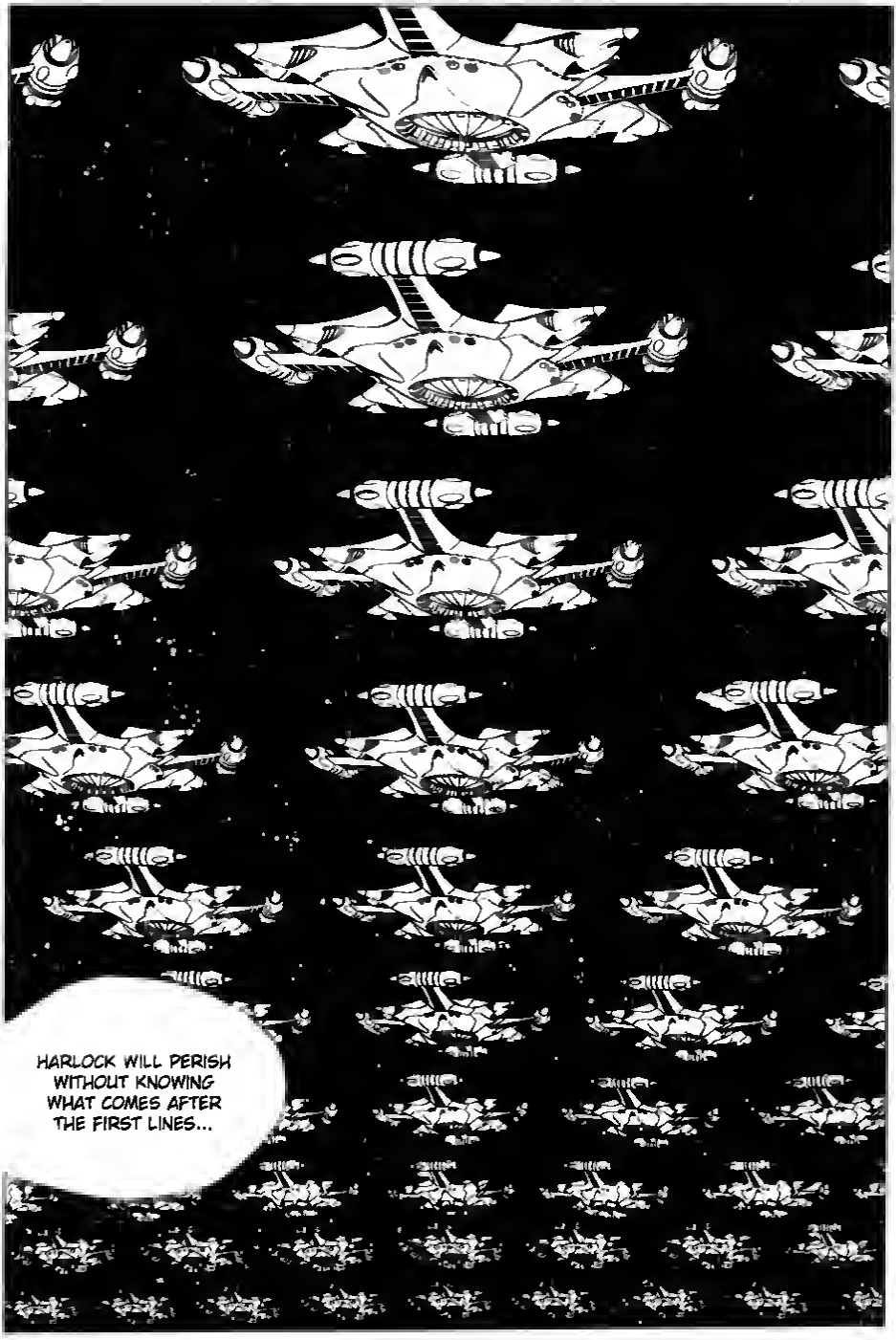
I HAVE THE FEELING SOMETHING JUST CROSSED MY MIND.
HUM...
THE GASEOUS MASS HAS SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED.
IT ALLOWED TO READ IN PEOPLE'S MIND. ULTIMATELY, HE ABANDONED THE PROJECT BEFORE ITS COMPLETION...
MY FATHER HAD DESIGNED A SIMILAR DEVICE.
THAT WAS PROBABLY A MIND PROBE...
THEY'RE WORRYING ABOUT THE ENEMIES THAT STAND UP TO THEM AND THEY'RE TRYING TO LEARN ABOUT US!
THEN THE MAZONE HAVE JUST PROBED OUR MIND!
TO SAY THAT WE WERE SO REASSURED BY THE MAIN COMPUTER'S SILENCE...
THEY'VE VIOLATED OUR MINDS, THAT'S HORRIBLE! WHAT WAS I THINKING OF?
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

THE PROBE DIDN'T GET ANYTHING INTERESTING?!
"I MUST REMEMBER TO PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES TO MY NEW SAKE RECIPE... AND WITHOUT EXPLOSION THIS TIME!"
"THEY'RE ALL BLIND! DON'T THEY SEE I'M TOO BUSY?!"
"I HOPE THAT THE ELECTRIC TRAIN I'VE LEFT AT HOME ISN'T RUSTED..."
"I'M SO THIRSTY... I'D NEED A FEW BOTTLES OF SAKE..."
"I DON'T LIKE WHEN IT FLIES OVER MY HEAD, THIS BLOODY FOWL!
"WITH ALL THE MOUSES THAT'S ON BOARD, WE COULD MAKE A SERIOUS FEAST..."
"I WANNA EAT NOODLES!"
"AAAH... I'M SO SLEEPY..."
"THE RICE IS STRANGE TODAY... IT'S ALL STICKY..."
"QUICK! I HAVE TO PEE!"


42? HOW COME?
THE THOUGHTS OF 42 CREW MEMBERS ARE ALL OF THE SAME KIND, YOUR HIGHNESS.
IF YOU'VE PICKED THE REFLECTIONS OF 42 PEOPLES, THEN THERE'S A STRANGER!
I THOUGHT THERE WERE ONLY 40 MEN ABOARD THE ARCADIA, WITHOUT COUNTING HARLOCK, HIS BIRD AND THE CAT.
HE WAS PLUNGED IN AN INCREDIBLY DEEP SLEEP...
THAT'S RIGHT. WE DON'T KNOW WHO IT IS. BUT THERE'S SOMEONE WHO WAS ASLEEP.
AND WE HAVEN'T GOT ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THIS INDIVIDUAL?
THAT'S SURPRISING... BUT THERE'S MORE WORRYING!

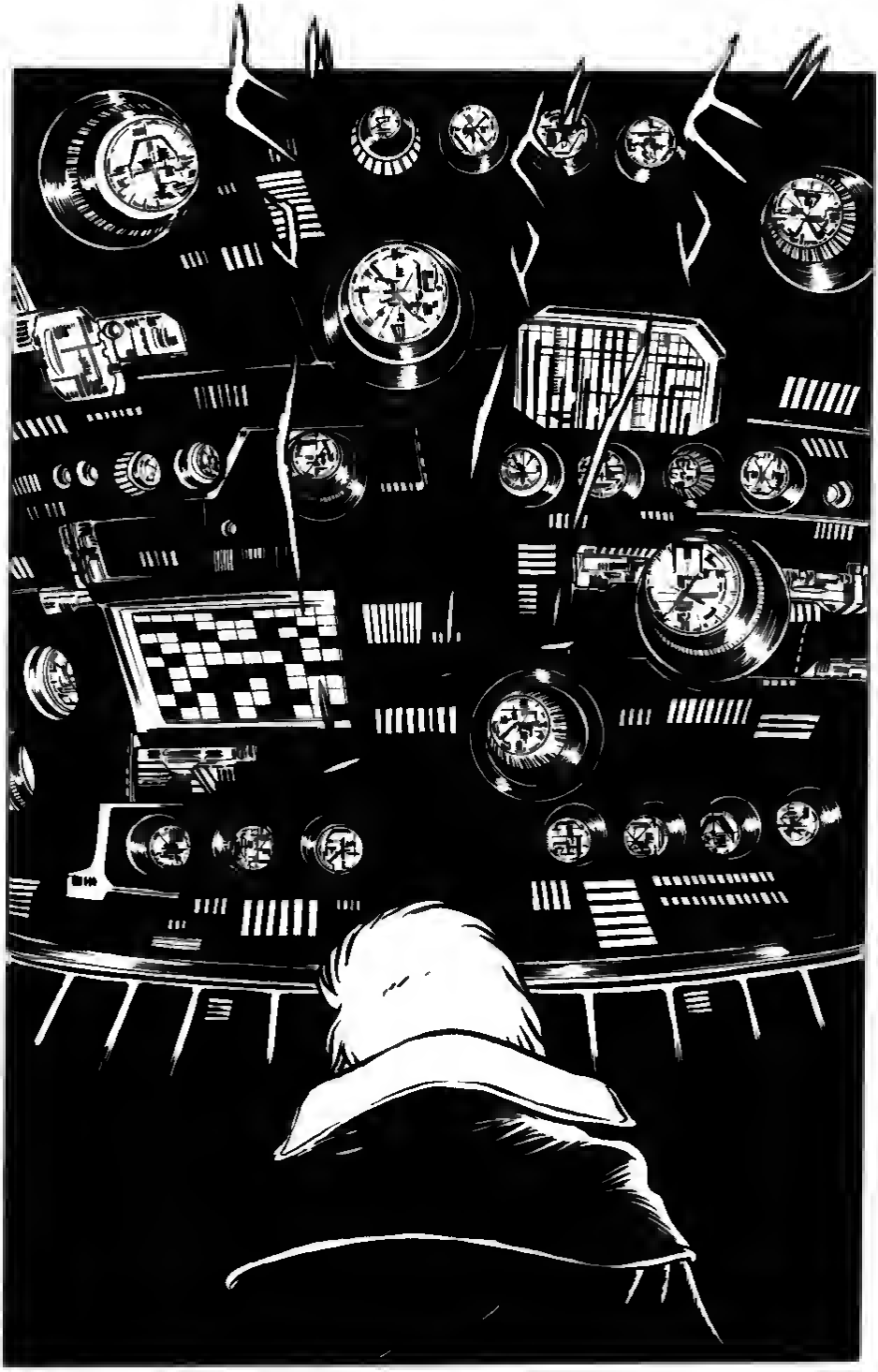

HARLOCK HAS PICKED UP OUR GUIDANCE SIGNALS AND IS USING THEM TO COME AT US.

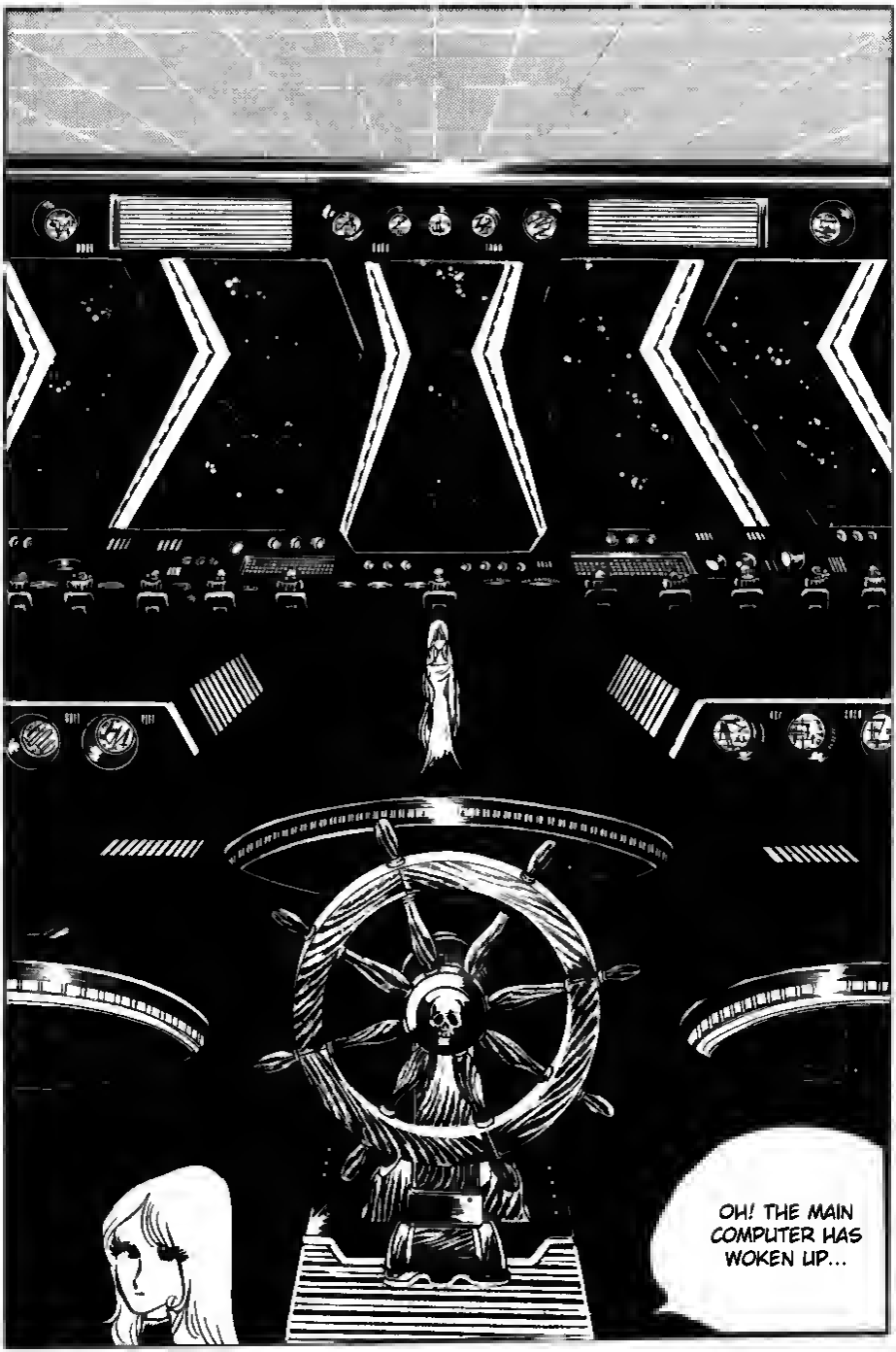

WE MUST DESTROY THE ARCADIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
HUMANS ARE HARMLESS BEINGS, BUT...
...HARLOCK AND HIS CREW ARE THE EXCEPTION! THEY'RE DANGEROUS!
THEY HAVE A WEAK POINT THOUGH...
THEY DON'T KNOW THE SIZE OF OUR SQUADRON AND THE EXTENT OF OUR FORCES!
OUR VANGUARD WILL BE ENOUGH TO ANNIHILATE THE ARCADIA AND ALL OF ITS OCCUPANTS... THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!

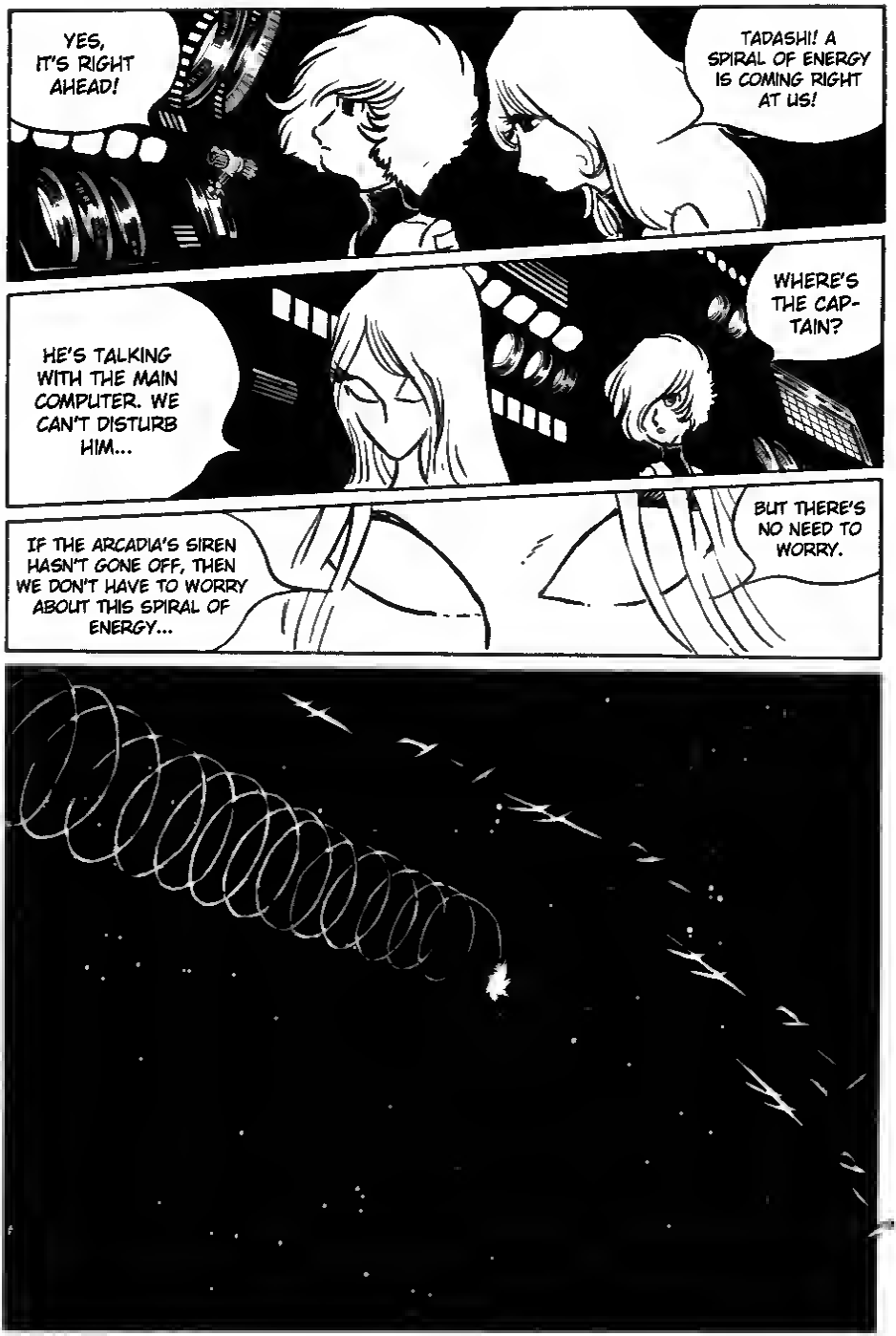

HARLOCK WILL PERISH WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT COMES AFTER THE FIRST LINES...

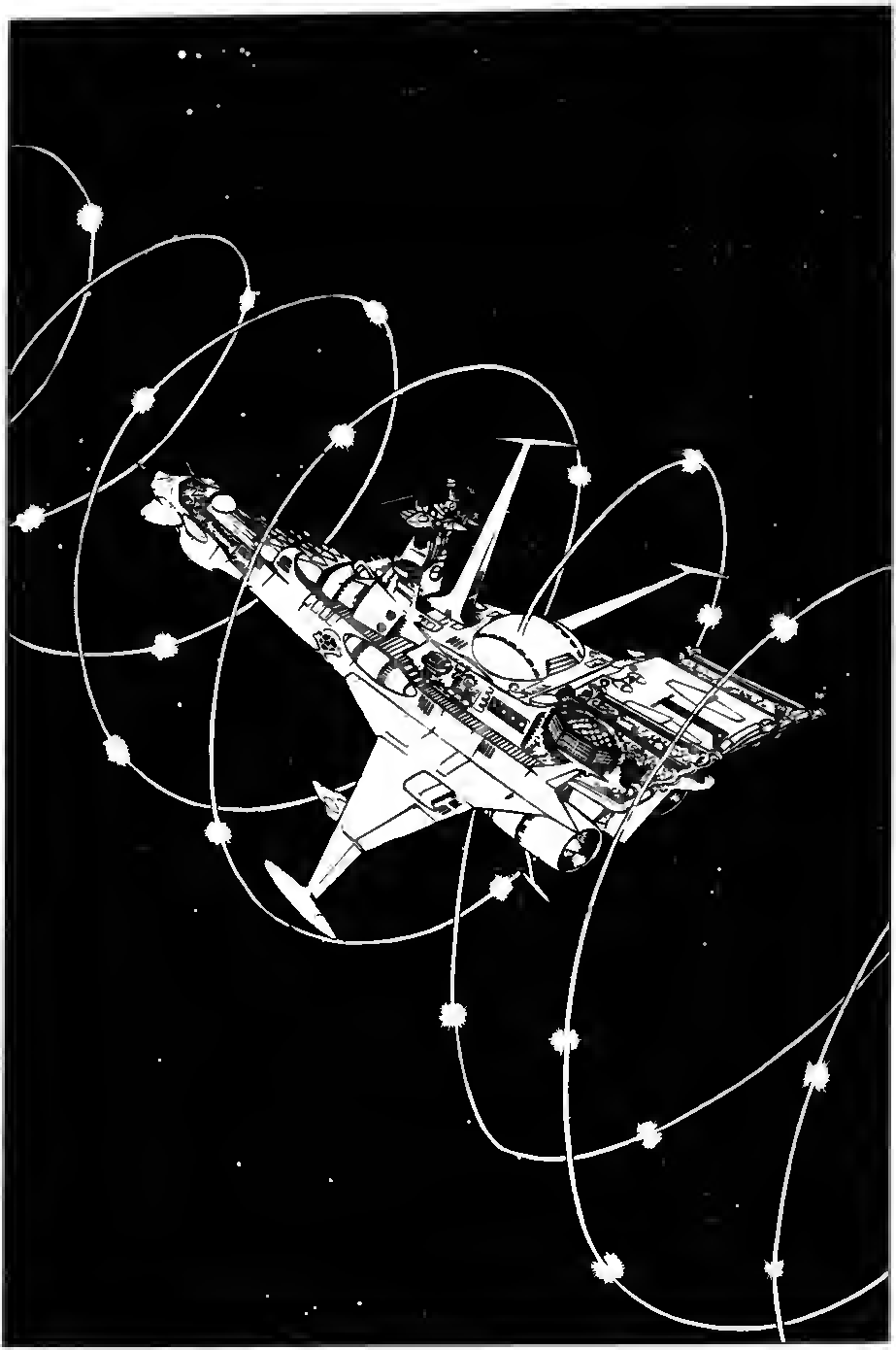
HE SAID HE WISHED TO STAY ALONE.
HE WENT IN THE MAIN COMPUTER'S ROOM.
WHERE'S THE CAPTAIN?
IT'S AS IF HE GOES THERE TO CHAT WITH SOMEONE...
HARLOCK GOES THERE REGULARLY, TO THINK ABOUT IMPORTANT THINGS...

IT'S ME, HARLOCK. ARE YOU AWAKE?




OH! THE MAIN COMPUTER HAS WOKEN UP...

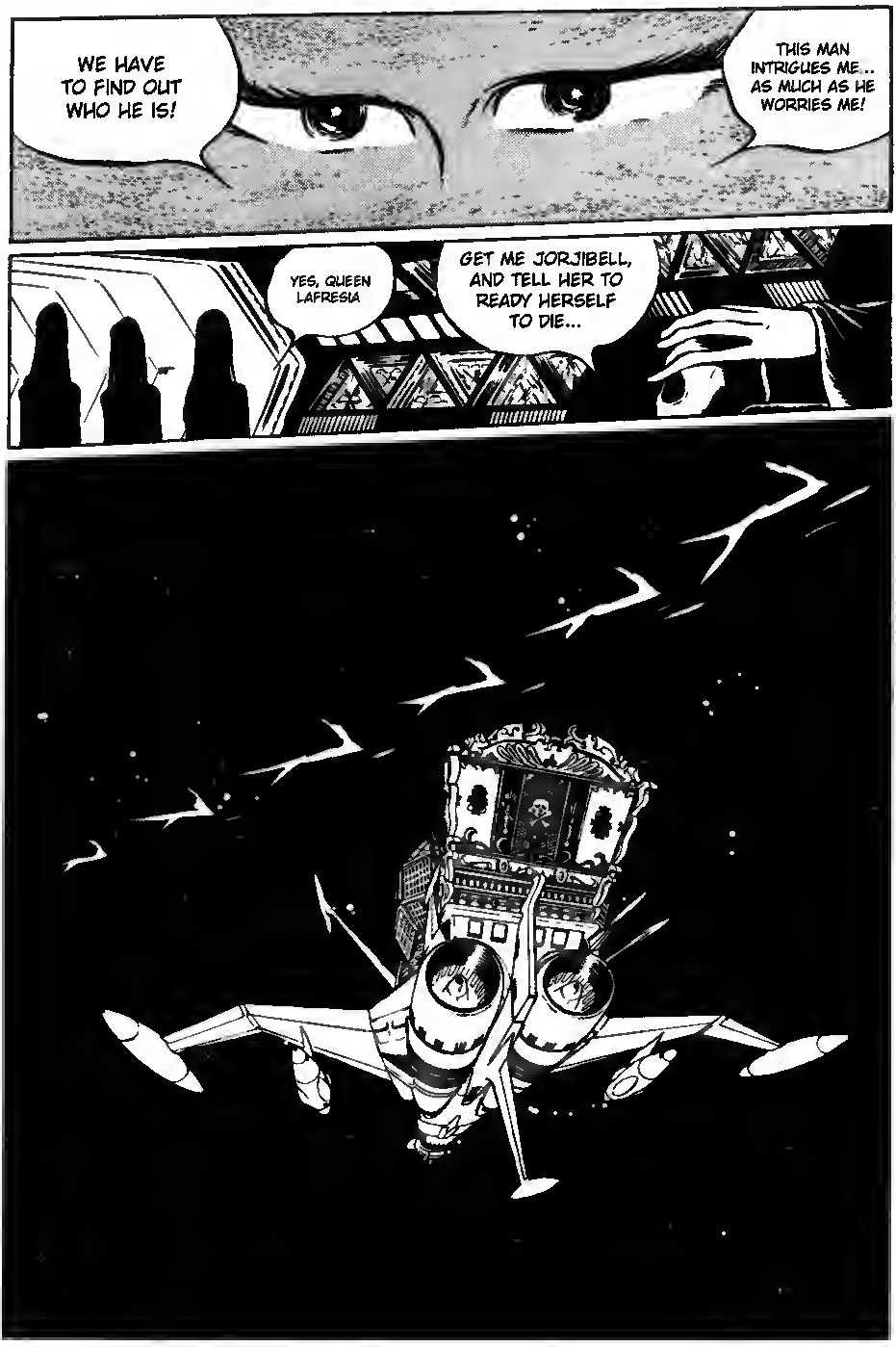

YES, IT'S RIGHT AHEAD!
TADASHI! A SPIRAL OF ENERGY IS COMING RIGHT AT US!
WHERE'S THE CAPTAIN?
HE'S TALKING WITH THE MAIN COMPUTER. WE CAN'T DISTURB HIM...
BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
IF THE ARCADIA'S SIREN HASN'T GONE OFF, THEN WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THIS SPIRAL OF ENERGY...



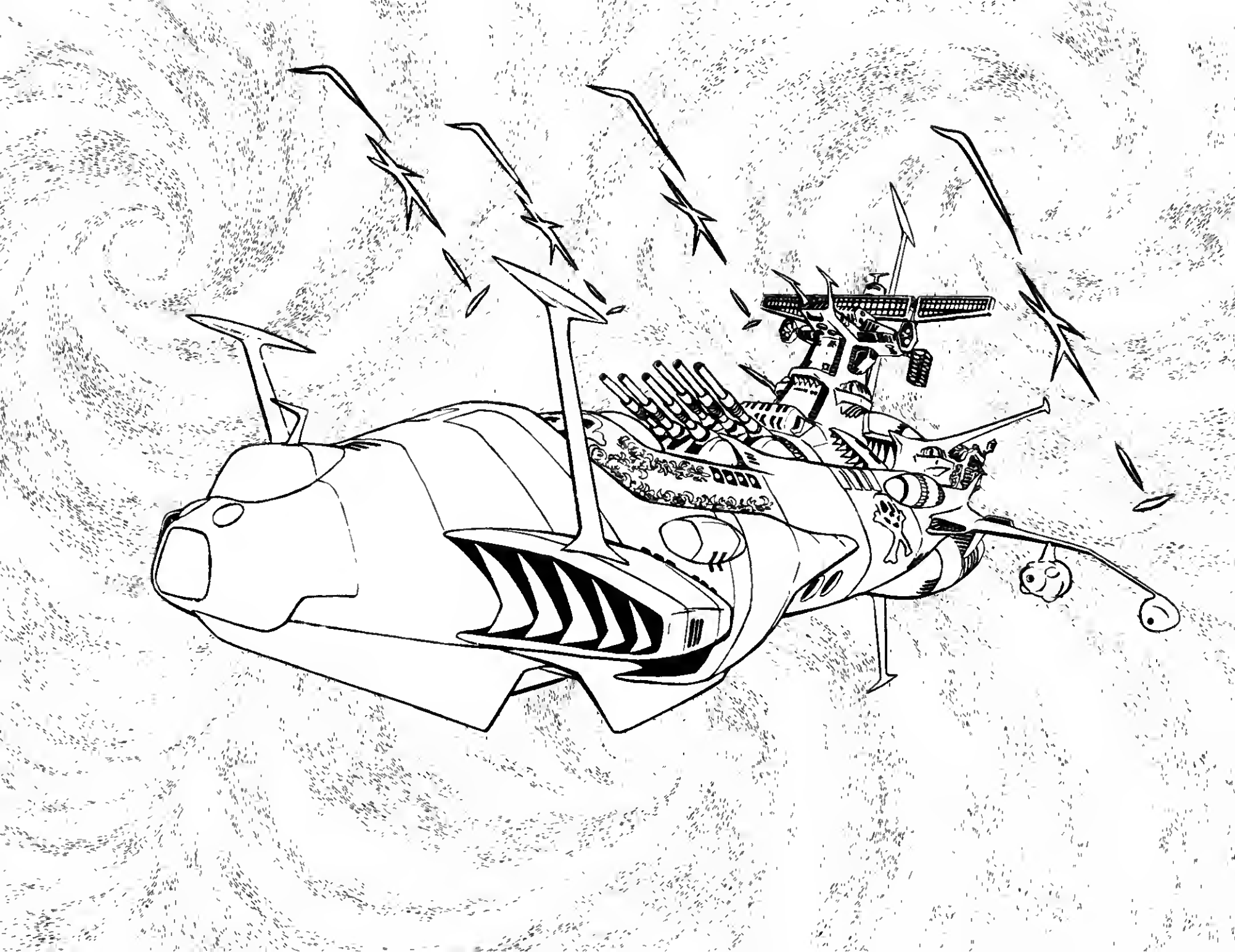
WHY DO THEY DO THAT?
YUK!! THEY'RE GOING TO PROBE OUR MINDS AGAIN! AND THIS TIME, THE SENSORY WAVES ARE STRONGER!
SLURP!
IT'S NO BIG DEAL! HERE! TAKE SOME MORE, MII!
HAVE YOU QUITE FINISHED DISTURBING ME ALL THE TIME?!
WHAT IS IT? STILL 30 HOURS UNTIL THE UNIFORMS ARE READY? PERFECT!
THEY'RE GONNA MAKE THE RICE MOULDY IF THEY DON'T STOP SPRAYING US WITH THEIR LOUSY WAVES!

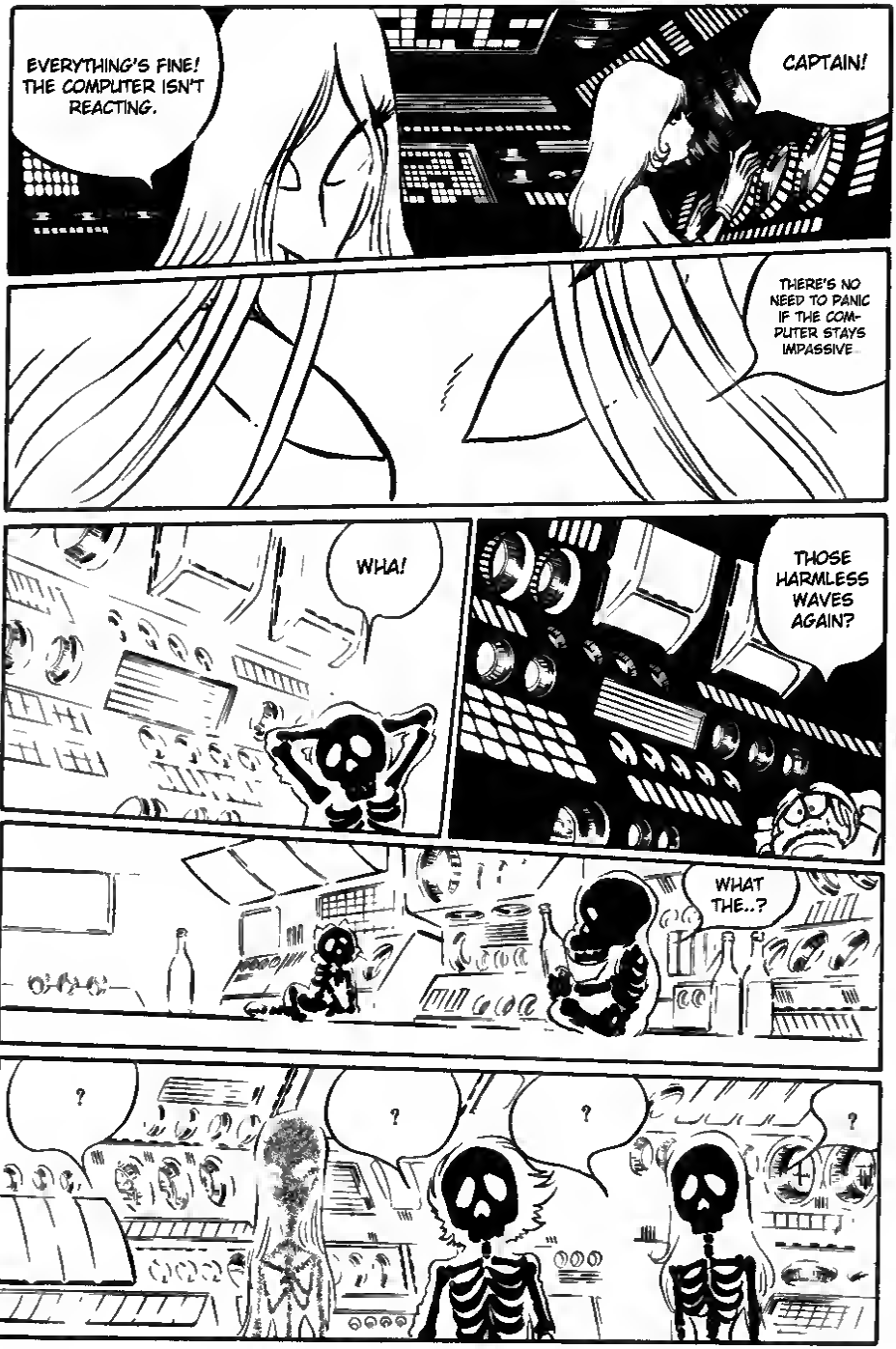
DAMNED MAZONE! I DON'T LIKE TO BE DISTURBED WHEN I'M SPEAKING WITH THE COMPUTER.
HARLOCK...
IT WAS JUST SENSORY WAVES, NOTHING SERIOUS.
I KNOW, EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT. THE COMPUTER LAUGHED ABOUT IT.
AND YET, THE ARCADIA'S COMPUTER LAUGHS, AND SOMETIMES IT CRIES TOO...
THE COMPUTER "LAUGHS"? IT'S JUST AN ELECTRONIC BRAIN... A MACHINE CAN'T LAUGH!
THIS SHIP IS LIKE NO OTHER... IT'S AN EXCEPTIONAL SHIP, TADASHI...

SO THAT'S WHAT THE MYSTERIOUS 42ND MAN IS THINKING...
HE HAS A LITTLE GIRL WHO STAYED ON EARTH... BUT HIS MIND IS SO AT EASE... HE DOESN'T LET HIMSELF GET CARRIED AWAY BY HIS EMOTIONS... AS IF HE WAS PROTECTED BY AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE...
"HOW IS MY DAUGHTER DOING? SHE MUST HAVE GROWN MUCH SINCE LAST TIME..."
"I'D LIKE TO HAVE A GOOD BREATH OF FRESH TERRESTRIAL AIR! AND EAT SOME RAMEN!

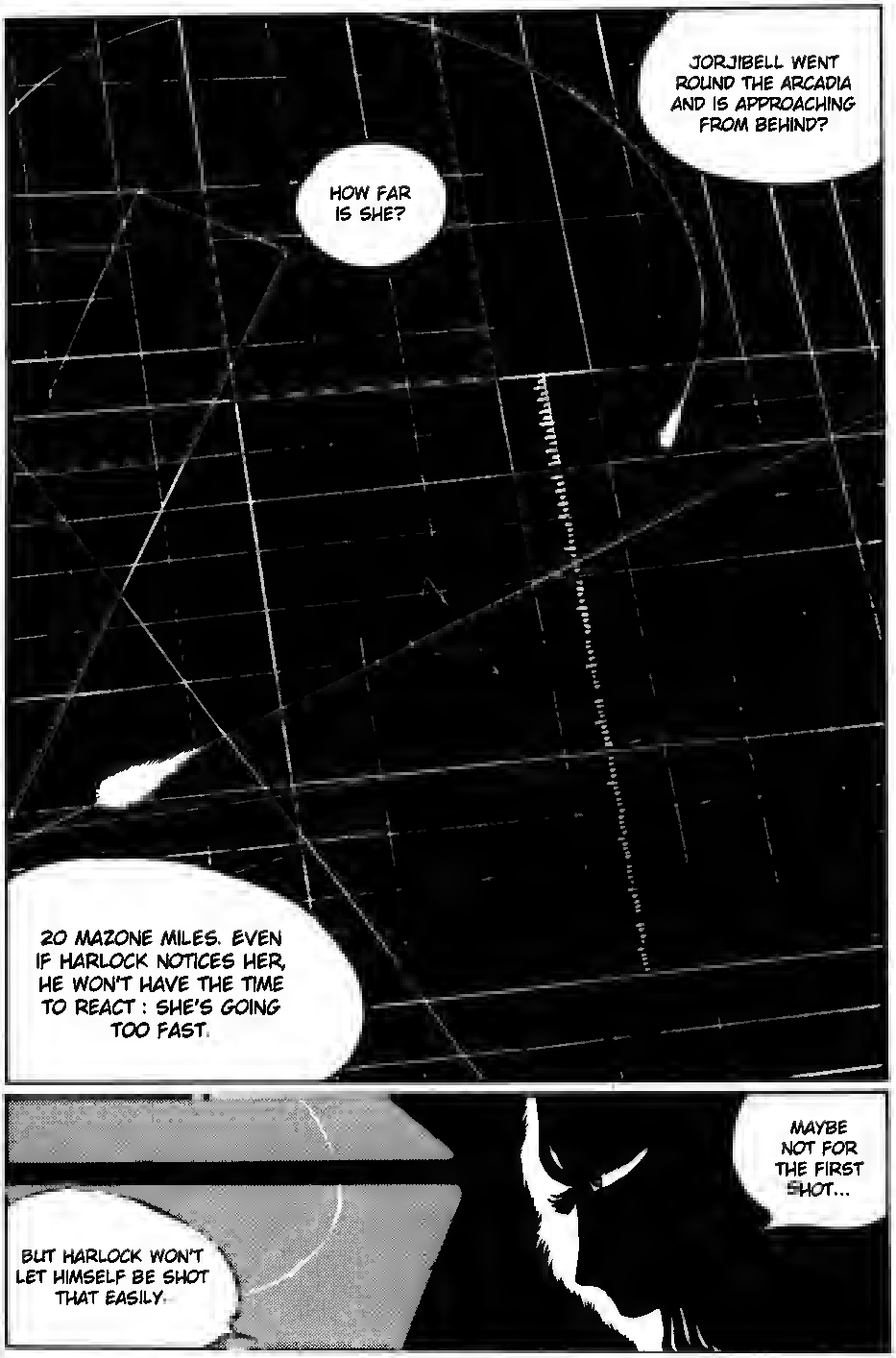

WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHO HE IS!
THIS MAN INTRIGUES ME... AS MUCH AS HE WORRIES ME!
YES, QUEEN LAFRESIA
GET ME JORJIBELL, AND TELL HER TO READY HERSELF TO DIE...

I'M INCREDIBLY OVER-FULL!
LIEUTENANT! COUNCIL OF WAR IN ONE HOUR!
THEY'RE UNDOUBTEDLY GOING TO GO TO THE NEXT PHASE... WE MUST STAY ON OUR GUARD!
THE MAZONE MUST'VE BEEN DISAPPOINTED WHEN THEY HEARD WHAT THEIR PROBE GOT.
UNDERSTOOD, CAPTAIN. I'LL TAKE THE HELM.
WE GO INTO MANUAL FLIGHT.
IN THE WORST CASE, THEY'LL SENT SOME SMALL-SIZED FIGHTERS. MAKE THE MOST OF THESE MOMENTS OF RESPITE
THE MAZONE WILL SURELY SEND SOME PROBES OR SOME HOLOGRAMS AGAIN...
WHAT'S THIS LIGHT COMING FROM THE OUTSIDE?
? ? ?
WE MUSTN'T PANIC. AFTER ALL, THE MAZONE'VE BEEN ON EARTH FOR SEVERAL MILLENNIA
WE STILL HAVEN'T LEFT THE SOLAR SYSTEM, AND THEY'RE ALREADY PREPARING TO ATTACK US..

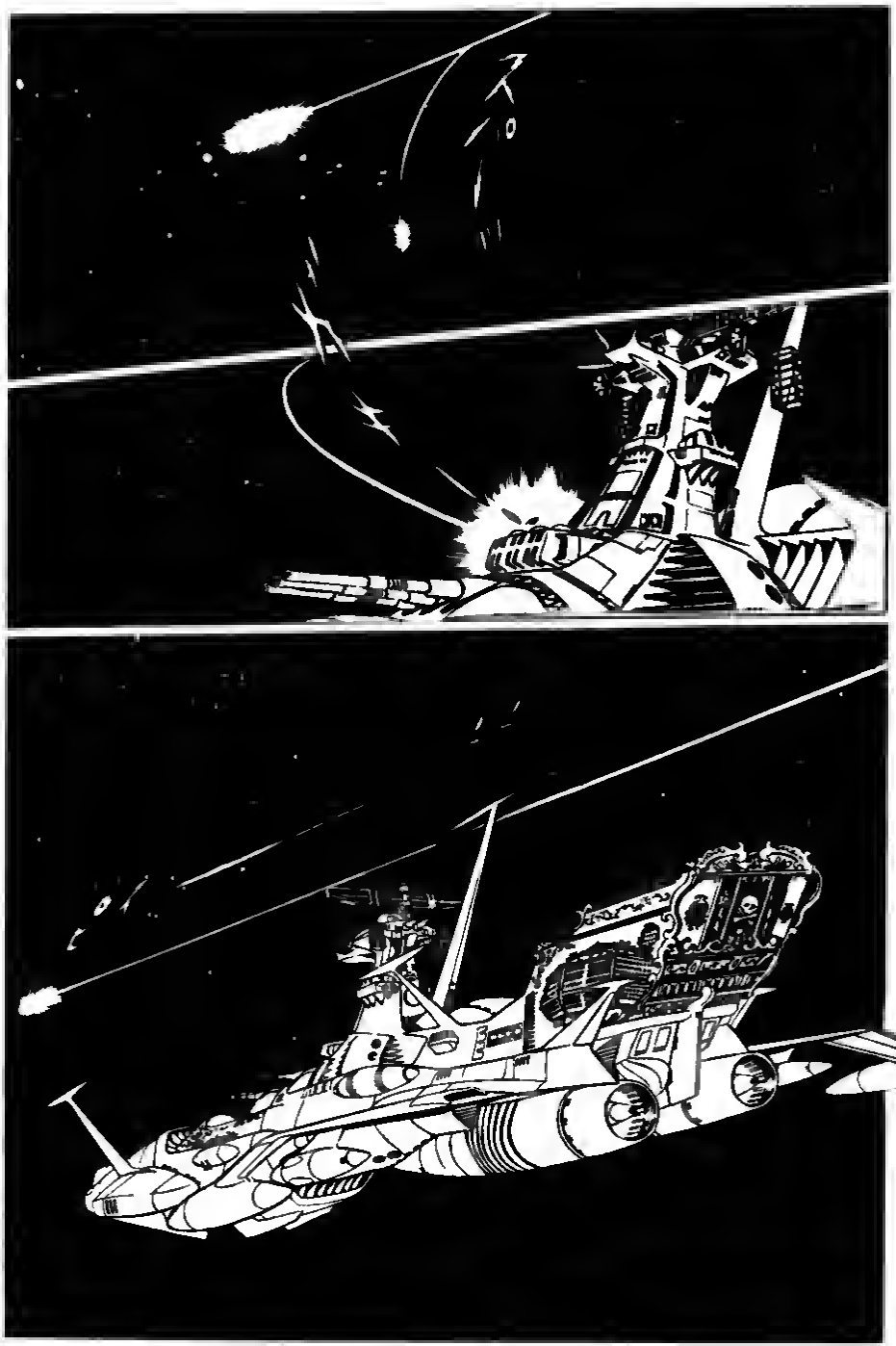


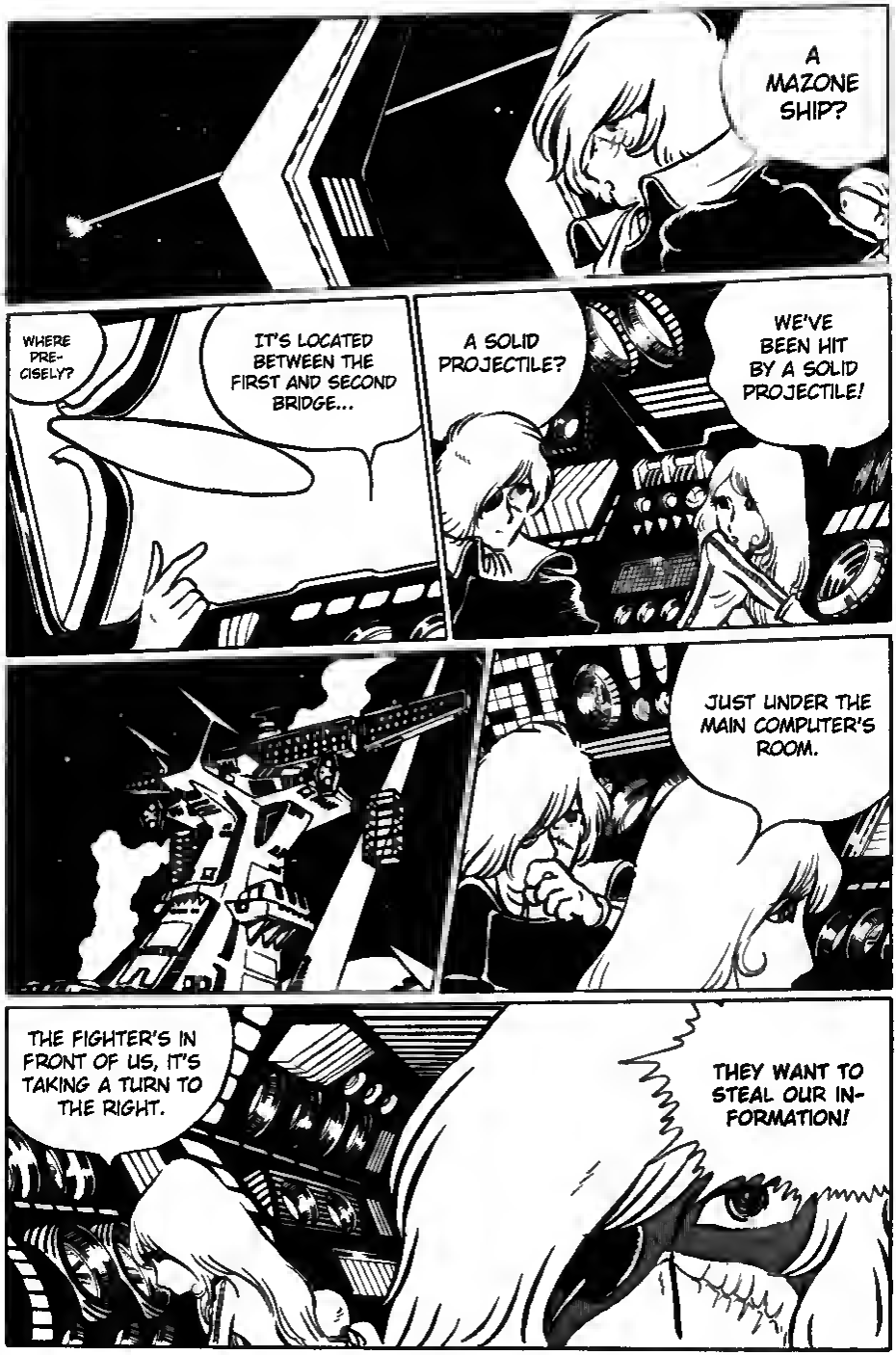

EVERYTHING'S FINE! THE COMPUTER ISN'T REACTING.
CAPTAIN!
THERE'S NO NEED TO PANIC IF THE COMPUTER STAYS IMPASSIVE.
WHA!
THOSE HARMLESS WAVES AGAIN?
WHAT THE..?
?
?
?
?

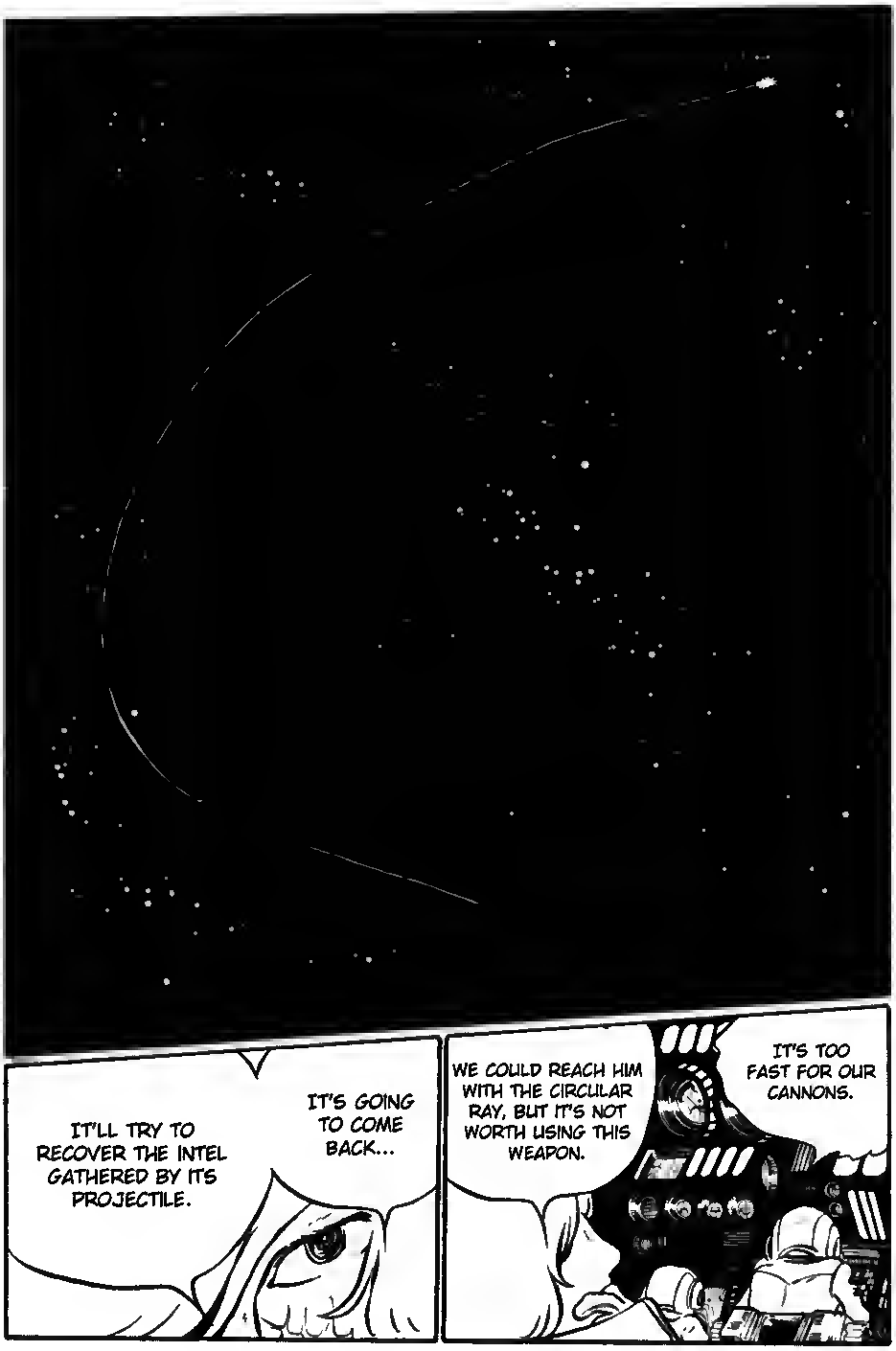
WHAAA?
I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR SKELETON HAD SUCH A PECULIAR SHAPE.
THE 42ND WASN'T DETECTED, NEITHER BY THE SPECTRE NOR BY THE X RAYS...
THE BONE SPECTRE REVEALED ONLY 41 HUMAN SKELETONS, ONE OF A CAT, AND ONE OF A BIRD...
THAT'S TROUBLING... WE'LL HAVE TO ACT CAREFULLY...
I WANDER AMIDST THE STARS. PEOPLE CALL ME "CAPTAIN HARLOCK"... FLYING THE JOLLY ROGER, I TRAVEL ACROSS A SEA WITHOUT TOMORROW, AND I LIVE AS A FREE MAN UNDER MY OWN BANNER : THAT OF LIBERTY!


JORJIBELL WENT ROUND THE ARCADIA AND IS APPROACHING FROM BEHIND?
HOW FAR IS SHE?
20 MAZONE MILES. EVEN IF HARLOCK NOTICES HER, HE WON'T HAVE THE TIME TO REACT : SHE'S GOING TOO FAST.
MAYBE NOT FOR THE FIRST SHOT...
BUT HARLOCK WON'T LET HIMSELF BE SHOT THAT EASILY.

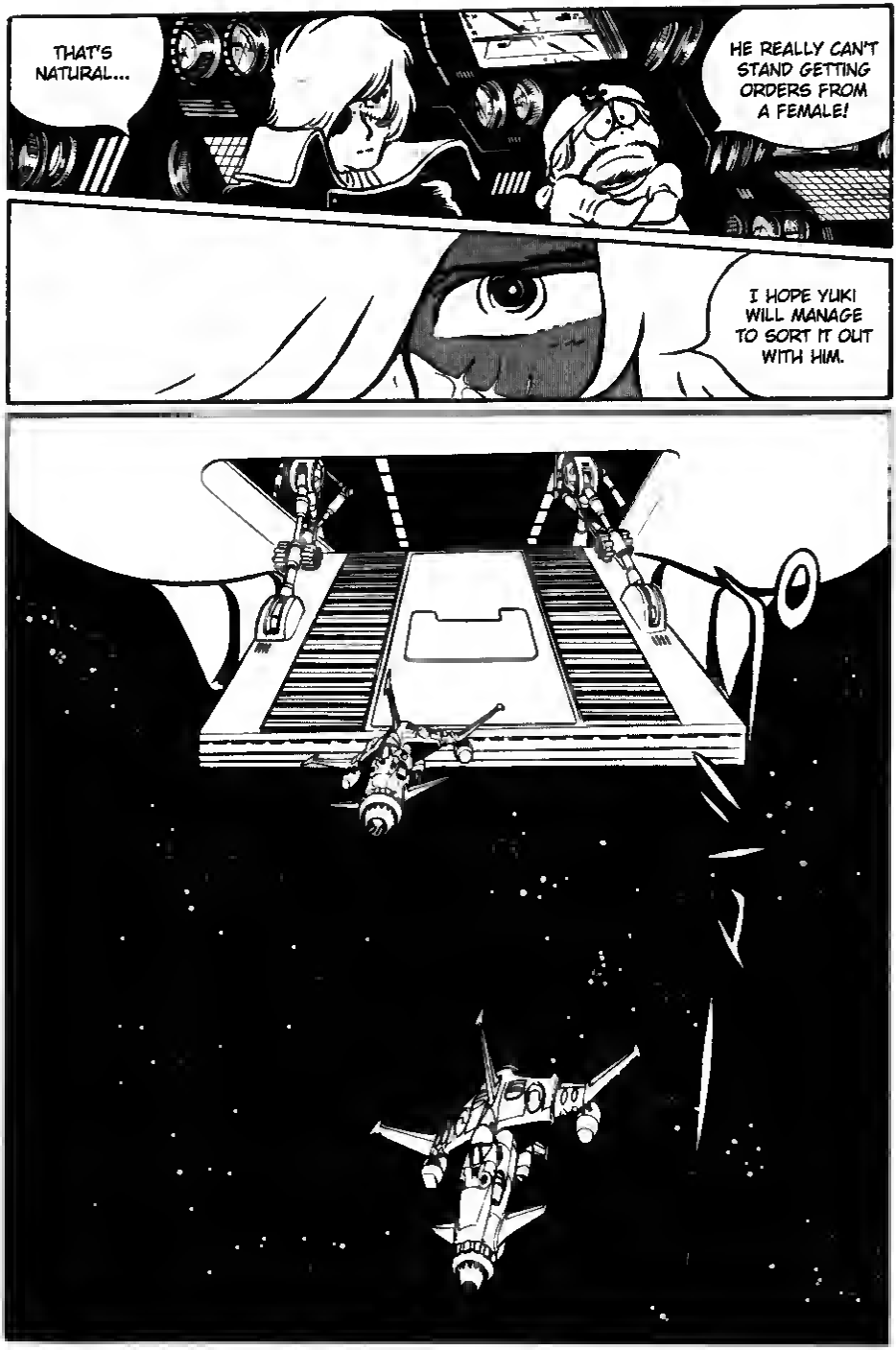
A FIGHTER IS APROA-CHING FROM THE REAR! AT HIGH SPEED!!



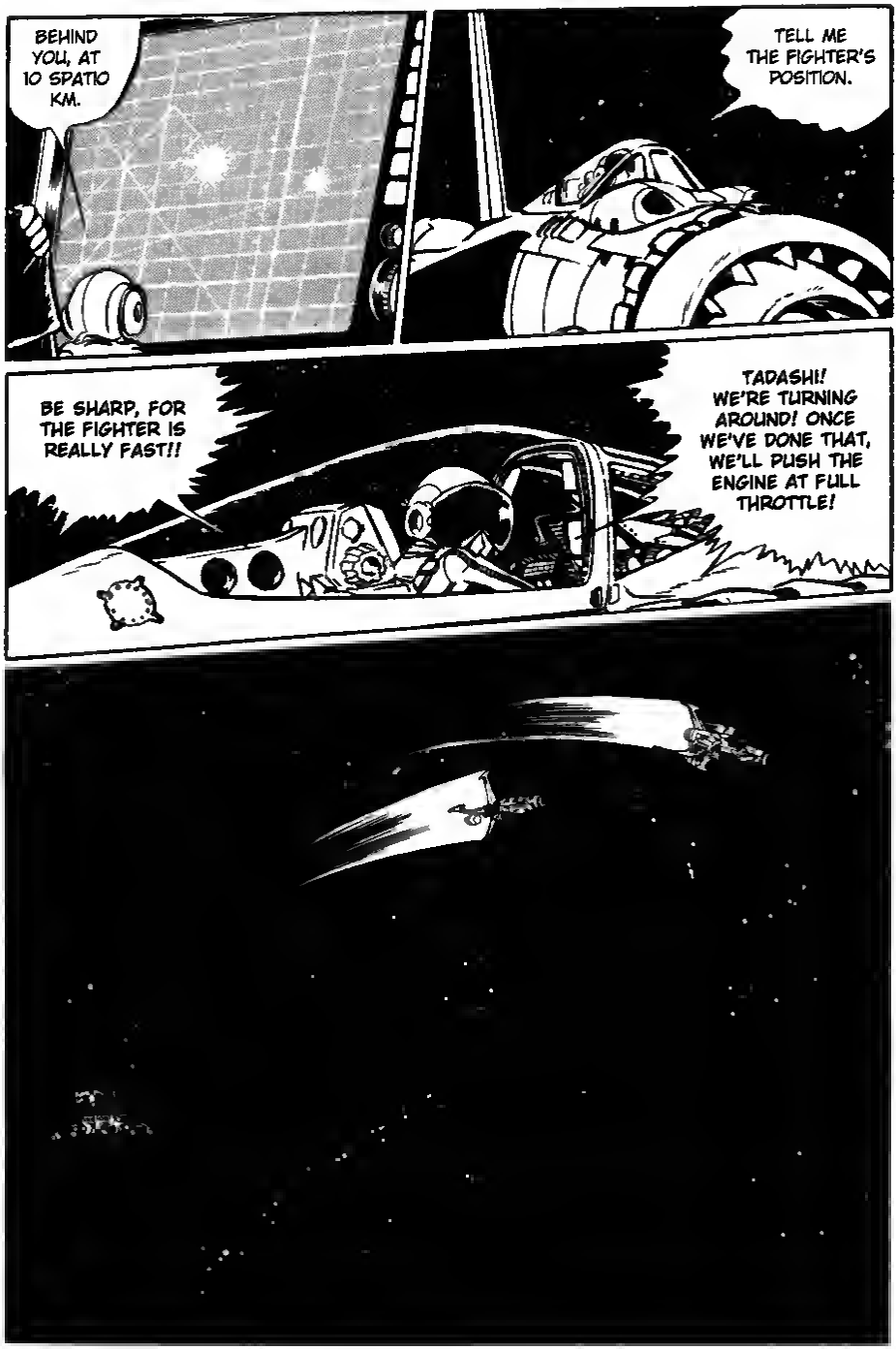

A MAZONE SHIP?
WHERE PRE-CISELY?
IT'S LOCATED BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND BRIDGE...
A SOLID PROJECTILE?
WE'VE BEEN HIT BY A SOLID PROJECTILE!
JUST UNDER THE MAIN COMPUTER'S ROOM.
THE FIGHTER'S IN FRONT OF US, IT'S TAKING A TURN TO THE RIGHT.
THEY WANT TO STEAL OUR IN-FORMATION!

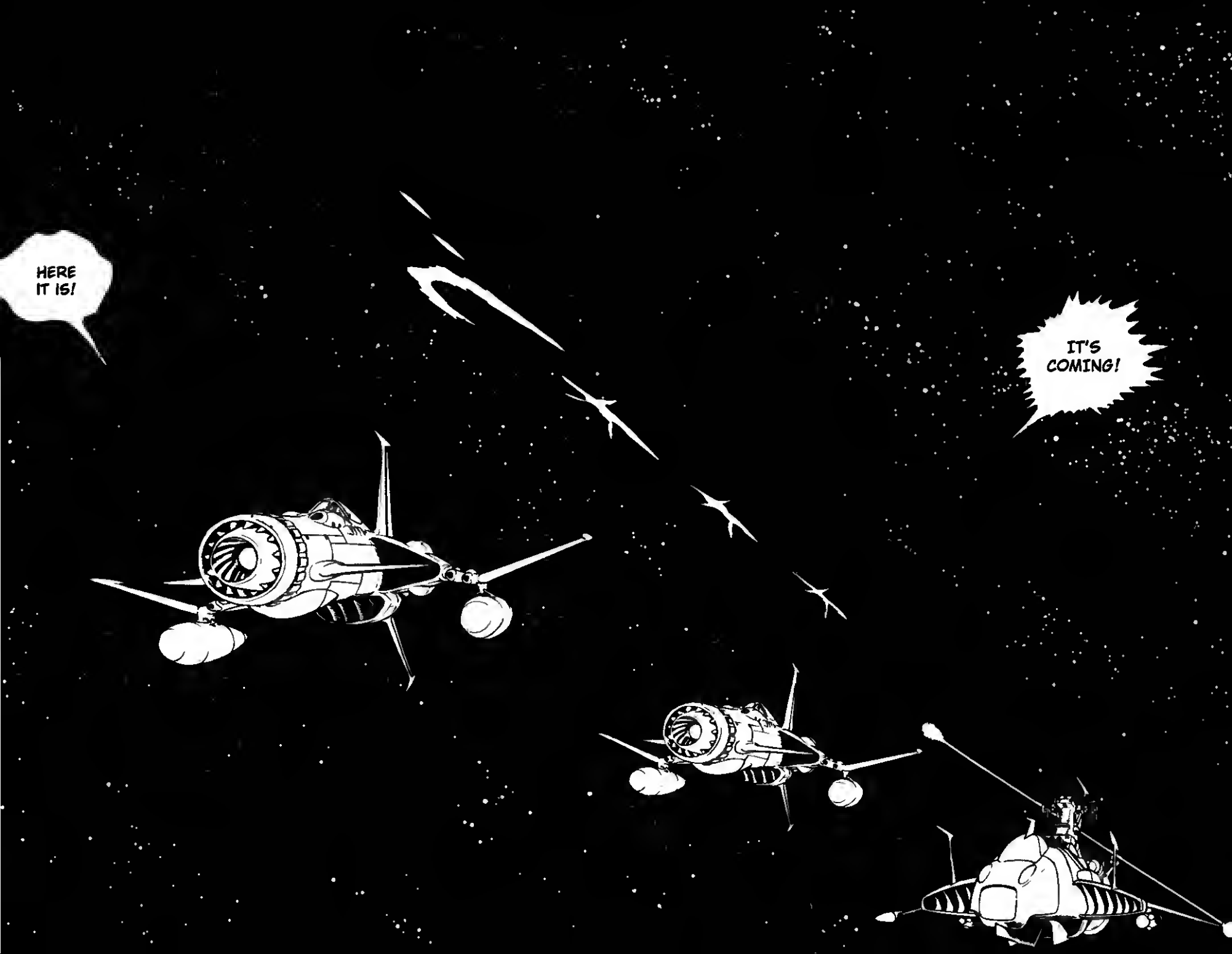

IT'LL TRY TO RECOVER THE INTEL GATHERED BY IT'S PROJECTILE.
IT'S GOING TO COME BACK...
WE COULD REACH HIM WITH THE CIRCULAR RAY, BUT IT'S NOT WORTH USING THIS WEAPON.
IT'S TOO FAST FOR OUR CANNONS.

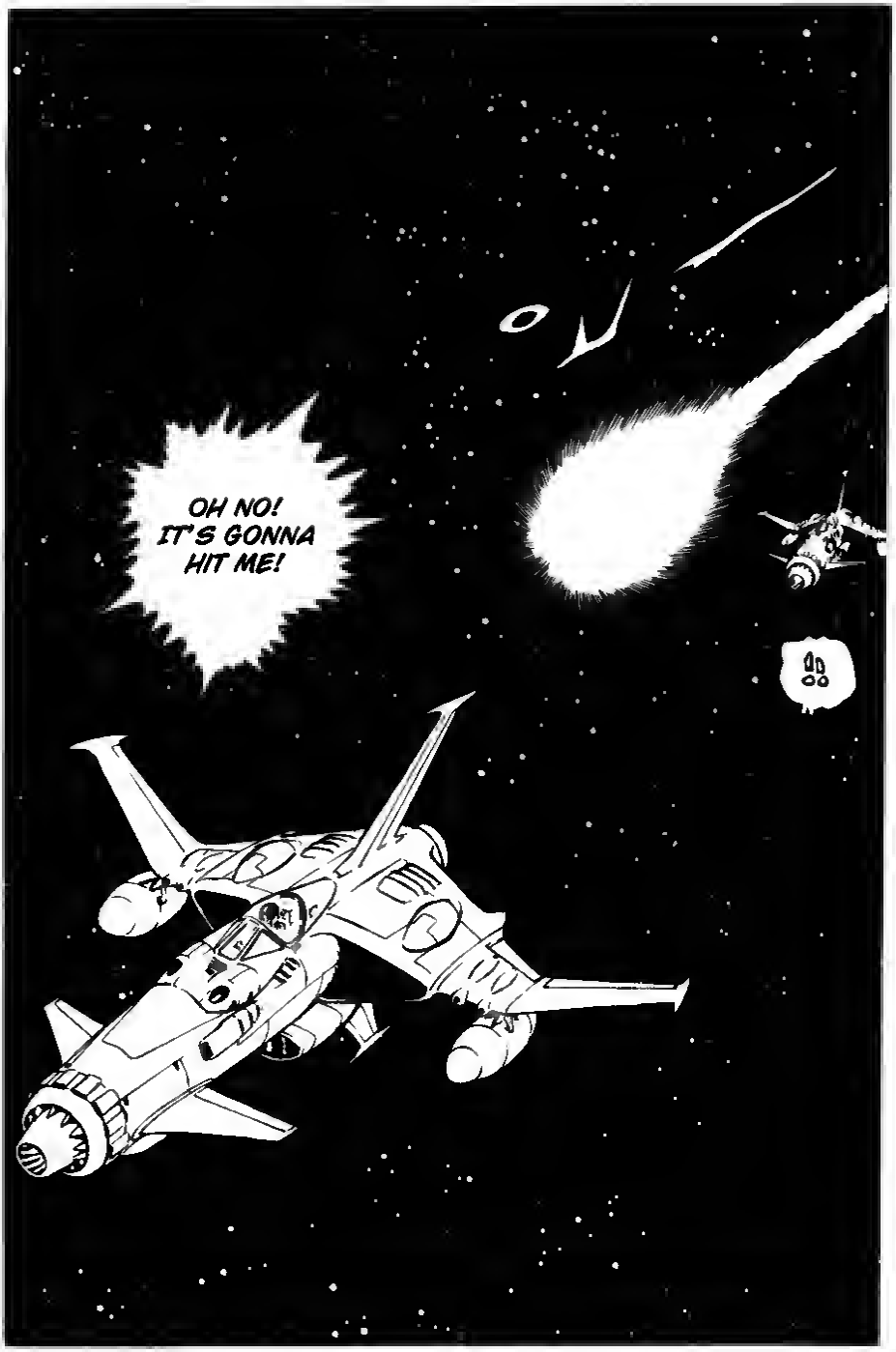
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM? HE MUST BE SICK...
THAT, IS AMAZING!
YATTARAN WENT TO DISLODGE THE PROJECTILE.
LIEUTENANT!
HANDS OFF! THIS THING IS MINE! GOT IT?
HMM... HMM...
OK.
ALRIGHT!
TRY TO CAPTURE HER ALIVE, THIS MAZONE...
COME WITH ME TADASHI.


THAT'S NATURAL...
HE REALLY CAN'T STAND GETTING ORDERS FROM A FEMALE!
I HOPE YUKI WILL MANAGE TO SORT IT OUT WITH HIM.

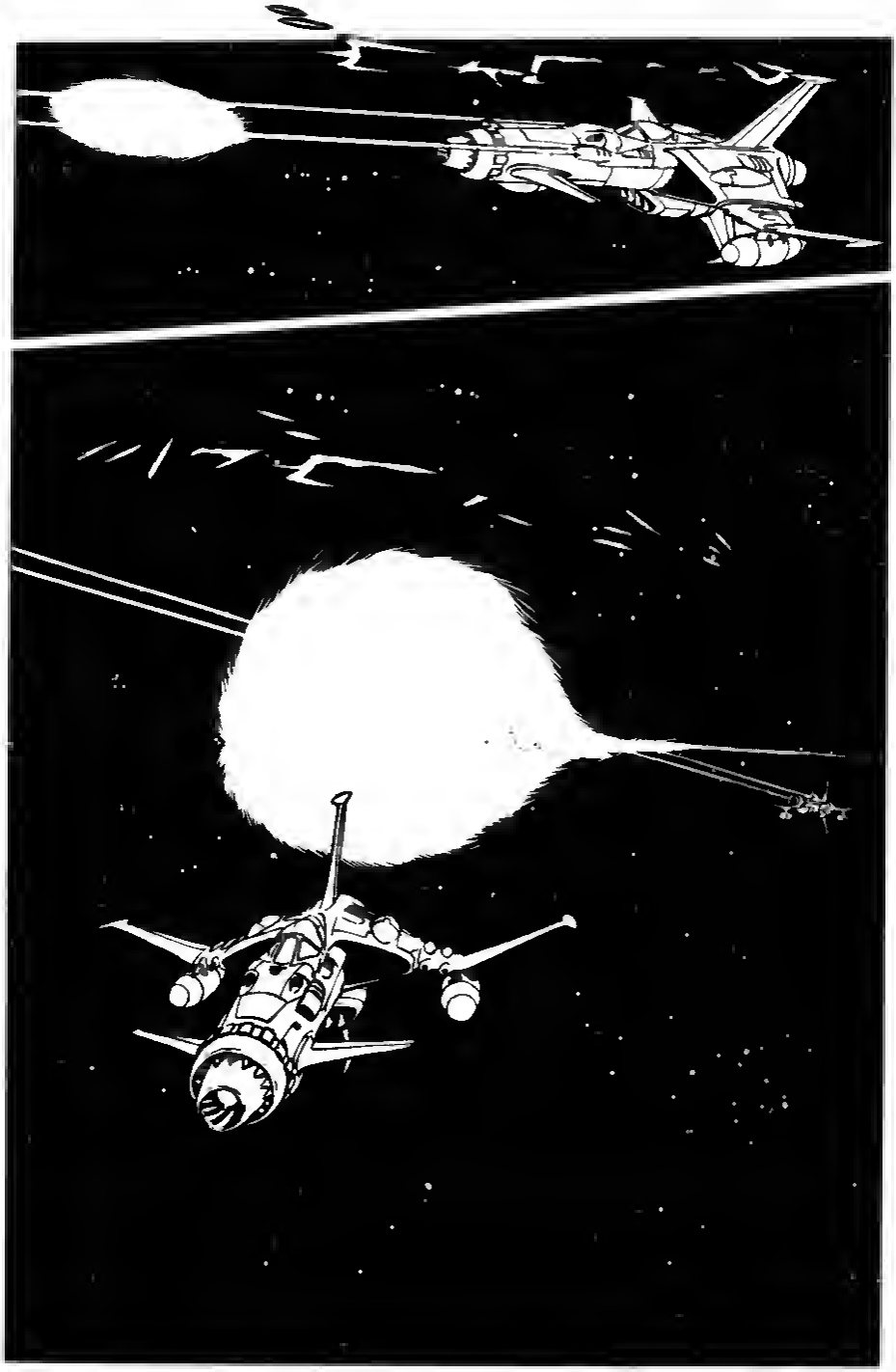
TADASHI! STAY 1KM BEHIND ME, AND COVER MY BACK!
.....


BEHIND YOU, AT 10 SPATIO KM.
TELL ME THE FIGHTER'S POSITION.
BE SHARP, FOR THE FIGHTER IS REALLY FAST!!
TADASHI! WE'RE TURNING AROUND! ONCE WE'VE DONE THAT, WE'LL PUSH THE ENGINE AT FULL THROTTLE!


HERE IT IS!
IT'S COMING!

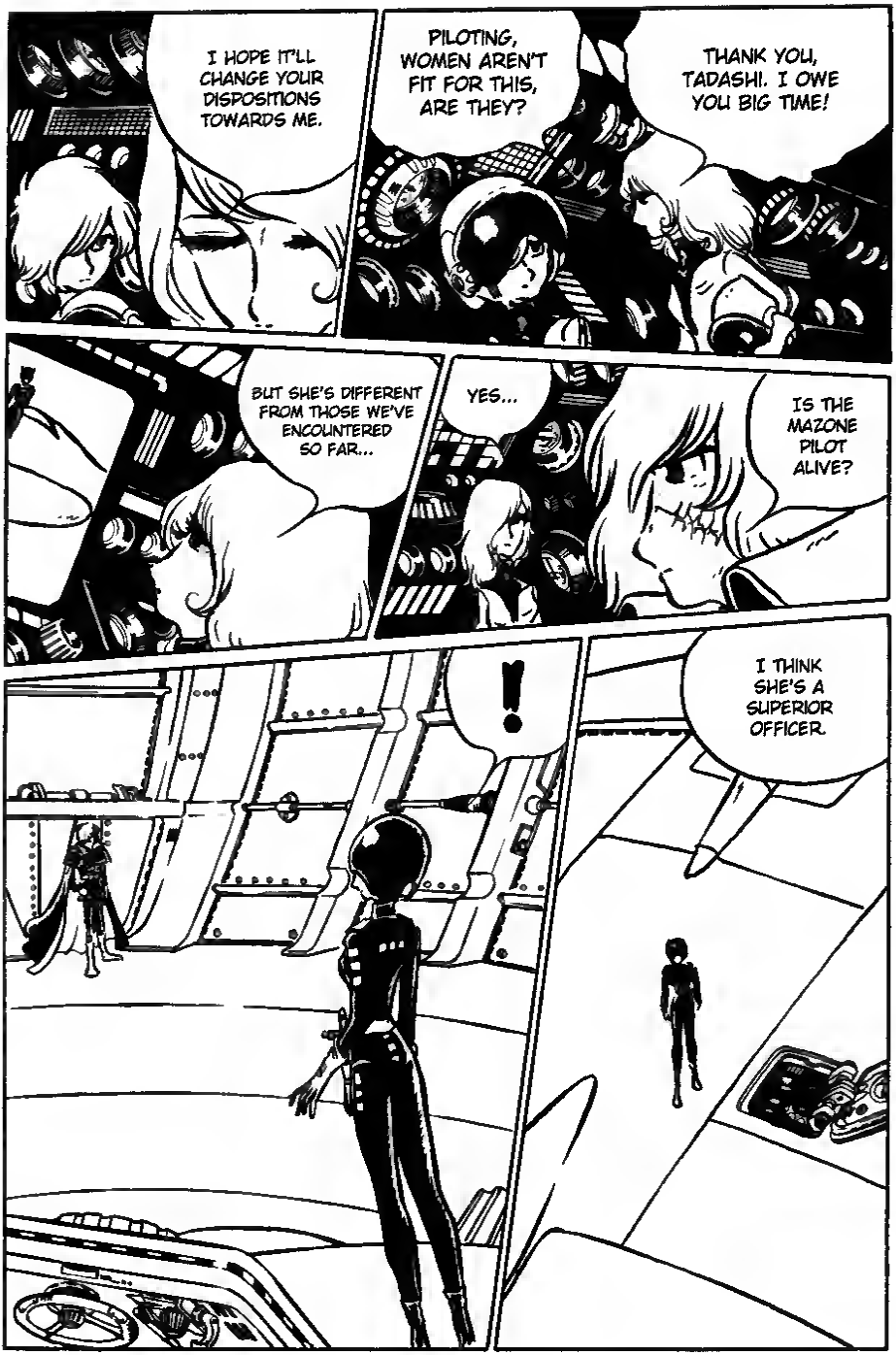

OH NO!
IT'S GONNA
HIT ME!

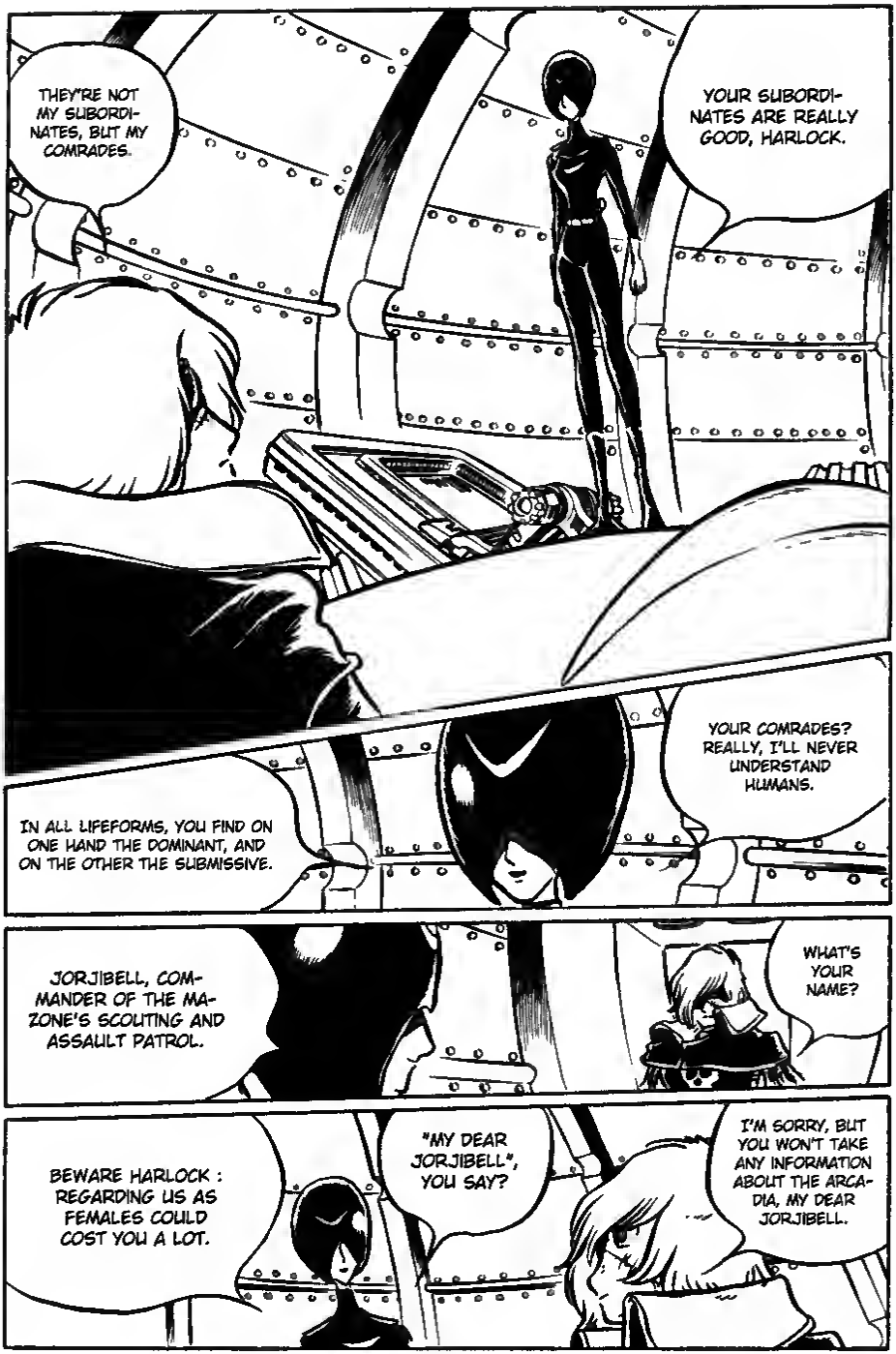
TADASHI!
HELP ME!!
!!



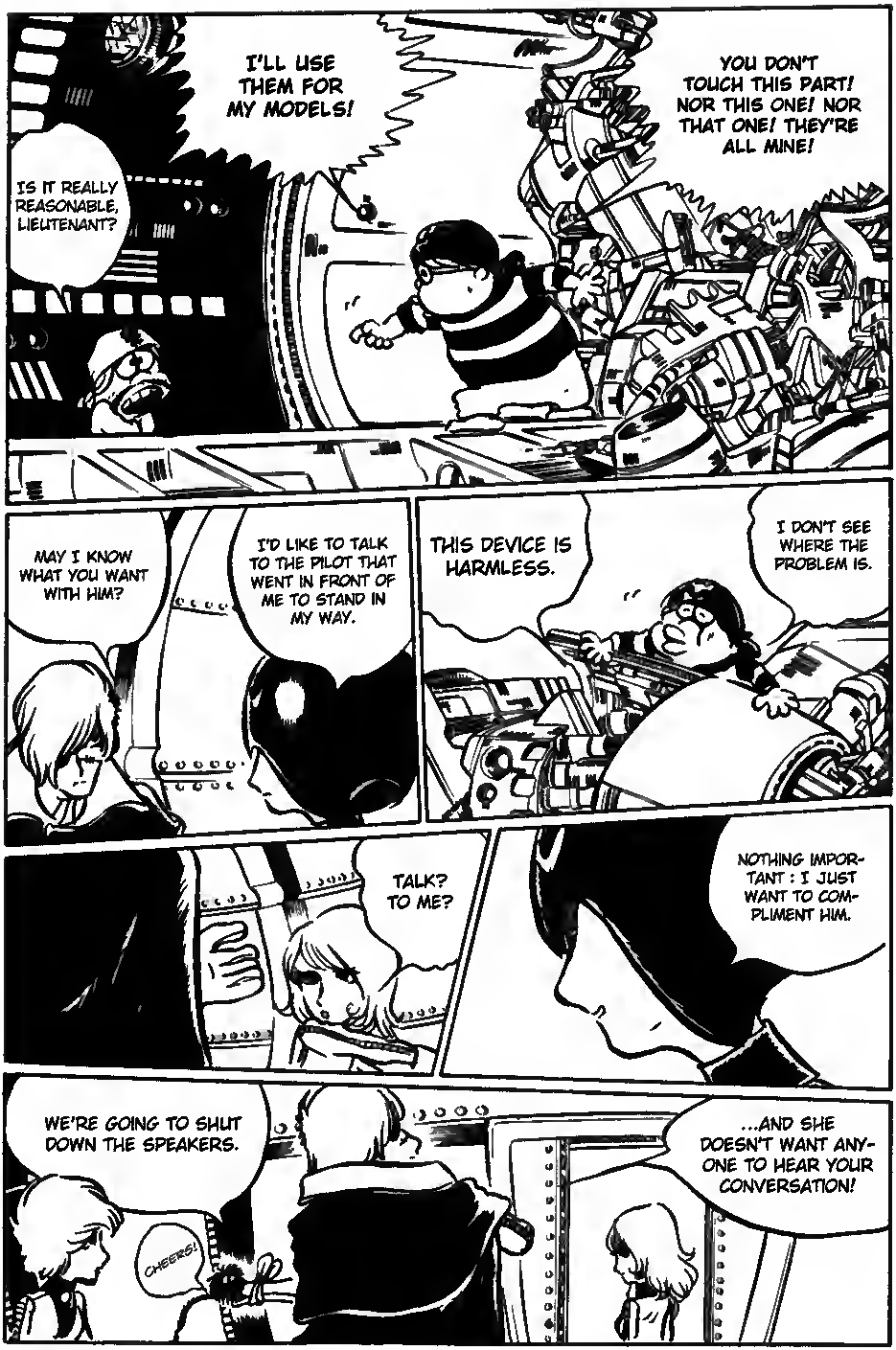
YUKI! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
TADASHI'S SHOT HAS HIT THE MAZONE FIGHTER!
HOW IS YUKI?
HER SHIP GOT HIT TOO...
YUKI! DO YOU HEAR ME?
EVERY-THING'S ALRIGHT, CAPTAIN.

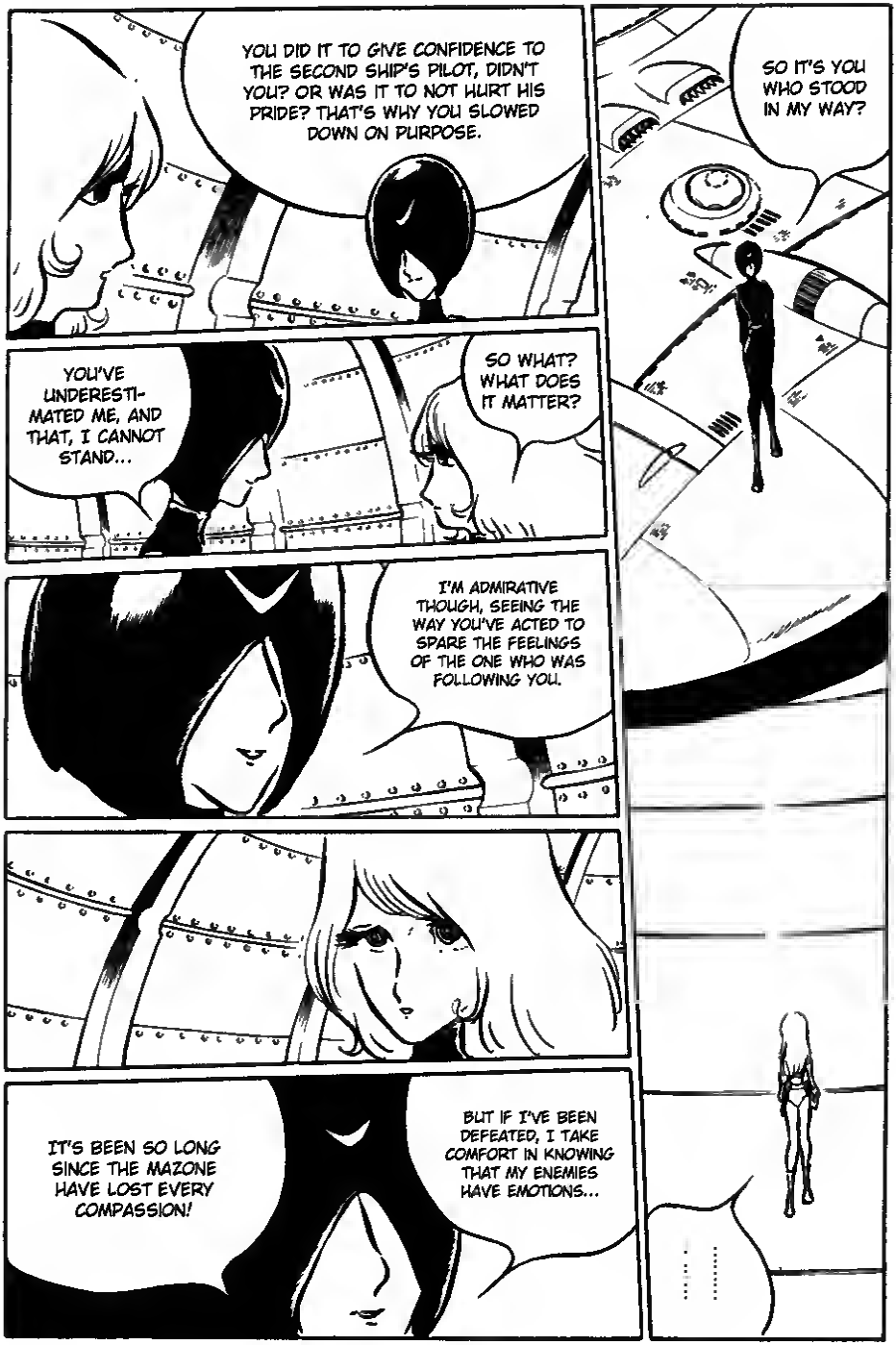
WE'RE BRINGING BACK THE MAZONE SHIP IN THE ARMORED BAY.

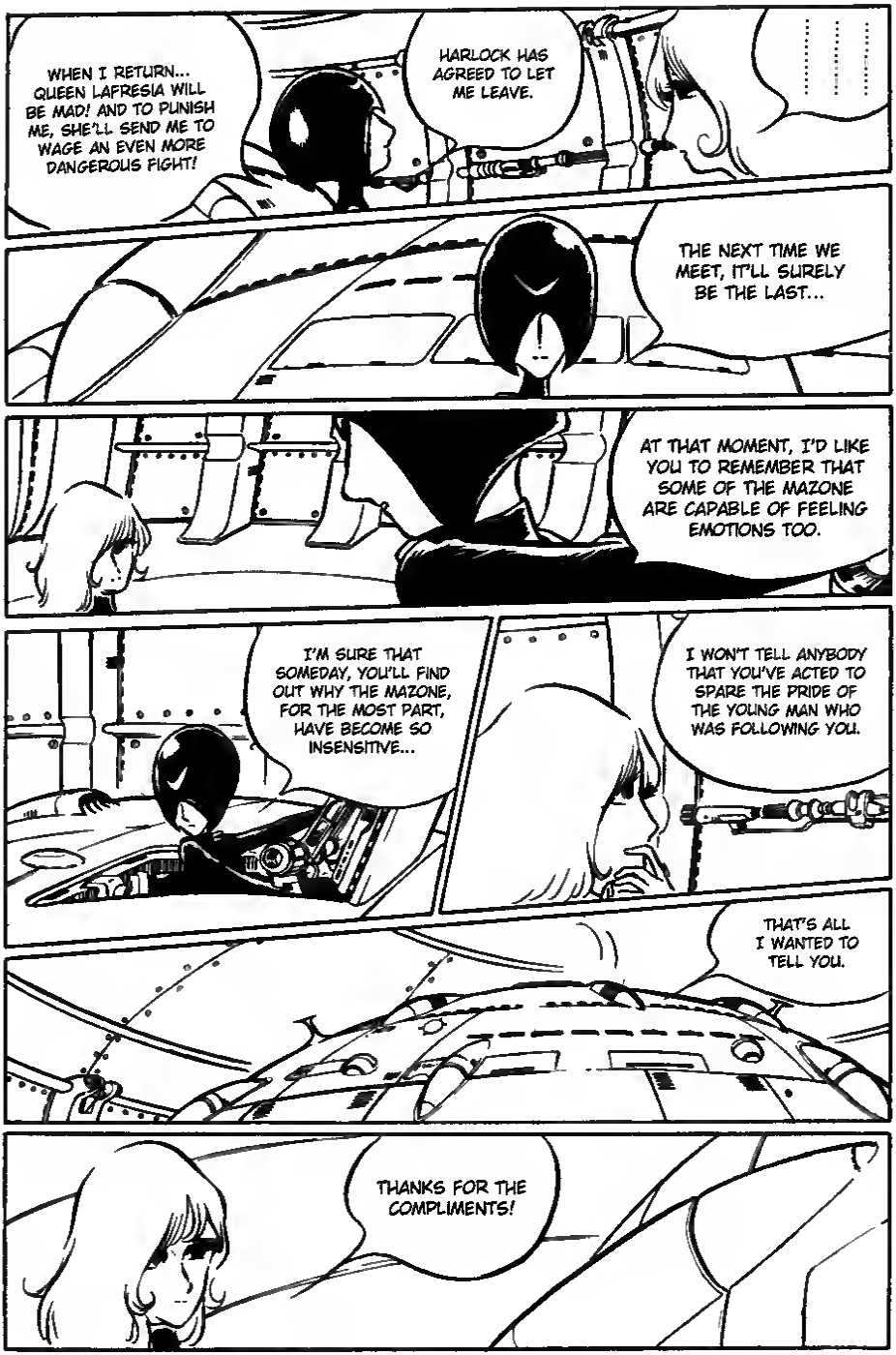

I HOPE IT'LL CHANGE YOUR DISPOSITIONS TOWARDS ME.
PILOTING, WOMEN AREN'T FIT FOR THIS, ARE THEY?
THANK YOU, TADASHI. I OWE YOU BIG TIME!
BUT SHE'S DIFFERENT FROM THOSE WE'VE ENCOUNTERED SO FAR...
YES...
IS THE MAZONE PILOT ALIVE?
!
I THINK SHE'S A SUPERIOR OFFICER.

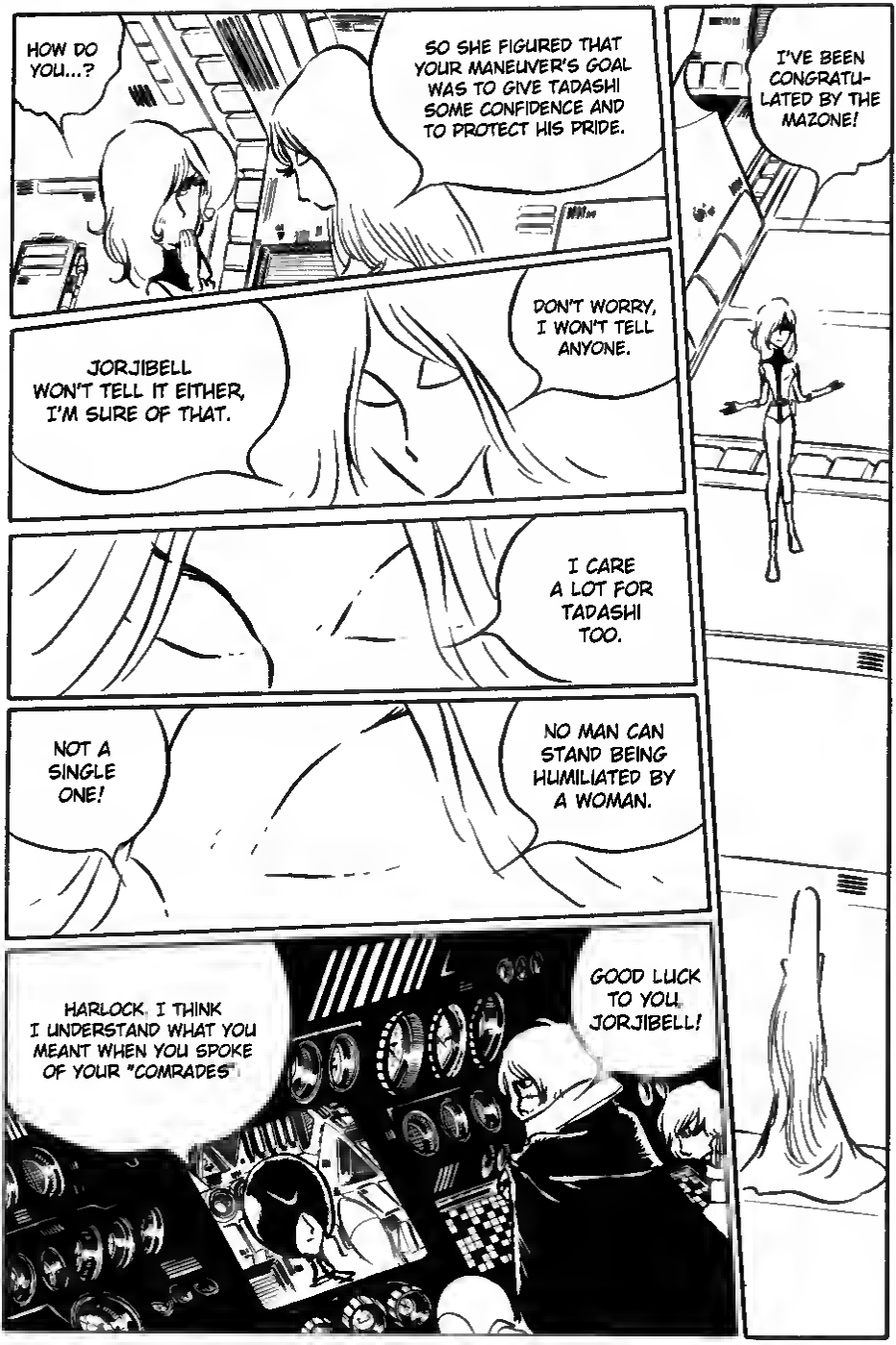

THEY'RE NOT MY SUBORDINATES, BUT MY COMRADES.
YOUR SUBORDINATES ARE REALLY GOOD, HARLOCK.
YOUR COMRADES? REALLY, I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND HUMANS.
IN ALL LIFEFORMS, YOU FIND ON ONE HAND THE DOMINANT, AND ON THE OTHER THE SUBMISSIVE.
JORJIBELL, COMMANDER OF THE MAZONE'S SCOUTING AND ASSAULT PATROL.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
BEWARE HARLOCK : REGARDING US AS FEMALES COULD COST YOU A LOT.
"MY DEAR JORJIBELL", YOU SAY?
I'M SORRY, BUT YOU WON'T TAKE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE ARCADIA, MY DEAR JORJIBELL.

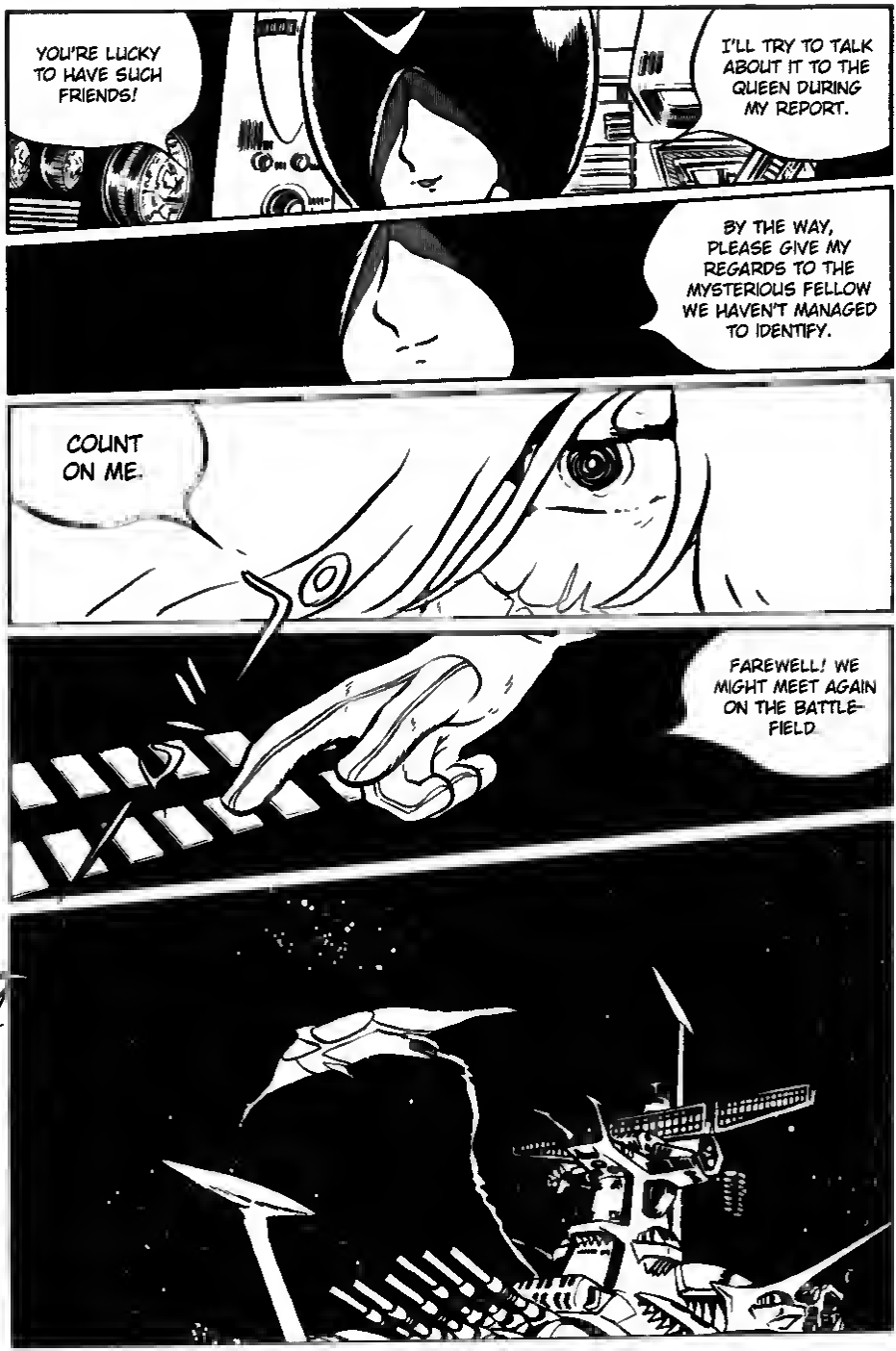
THE ALMIGHTY MAZONE DON'T REALLY APPRECIATE BEING PUT IN THE SAME CATEGORIES AS HUMANS.
DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE?
OBVIOUSLY.
I GUESS YOU WON'T ANSWER IF I WAS TO INTERROGATE YOU?
I MUST REJOIN THE FLAG-SHIP AND MAKE MY REPORT TO QUEEN LAFRESIA.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? WOULD YOU ANSWER IF WE WERE TO IN-TERROGATE YOU, HARLOCK?
...
I SEE...
WHAT? IT'S DISMANTLED?
ANYWAY, I'VE BEEN AMAZED BY HOW FAST YOU DISMANTLED THE PROJECTILE I SHOT IN YOUR SHIP'S HULL.

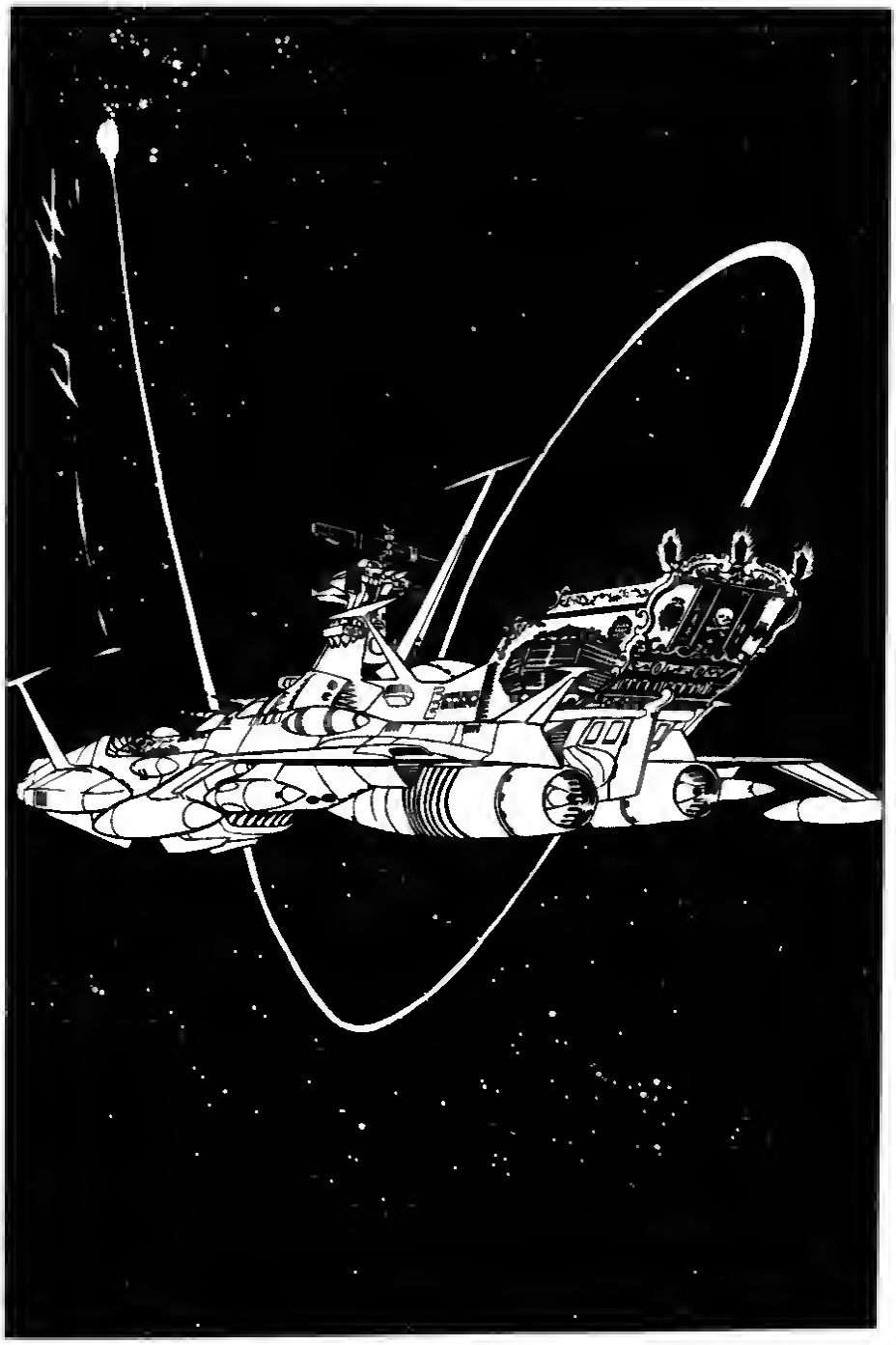

I'LL USE THEM FOR MY MODELS!
YOU DON'T TOUCH THIS PART! NOR THIS ONE! NOR THAT ONE! THEY'RE ALL MINE!
IS IT REALLY REASONABLE, LIEUTENANT?
MAY I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT WITH HIM?
I'D LIKE TO TALK TO THE PILOT THAT WENT IN FRONT OF ME TO STAND IN MY WAY.
THIS DEVICE IS HARMLESS.
I DON'T SEE WHERE THE PROBLEM IS.
TALK? TO ME?
NOTHING IMPORTANT : I JUST WANT TO COMPLIMENT HIM.
WE'RE GOING TO SHUT DOWN THE SPEAKERS.
CHEERS!
...AND SHE DOESN'T WANT ANYONE TO HEAR YOUR CONVERSATION!

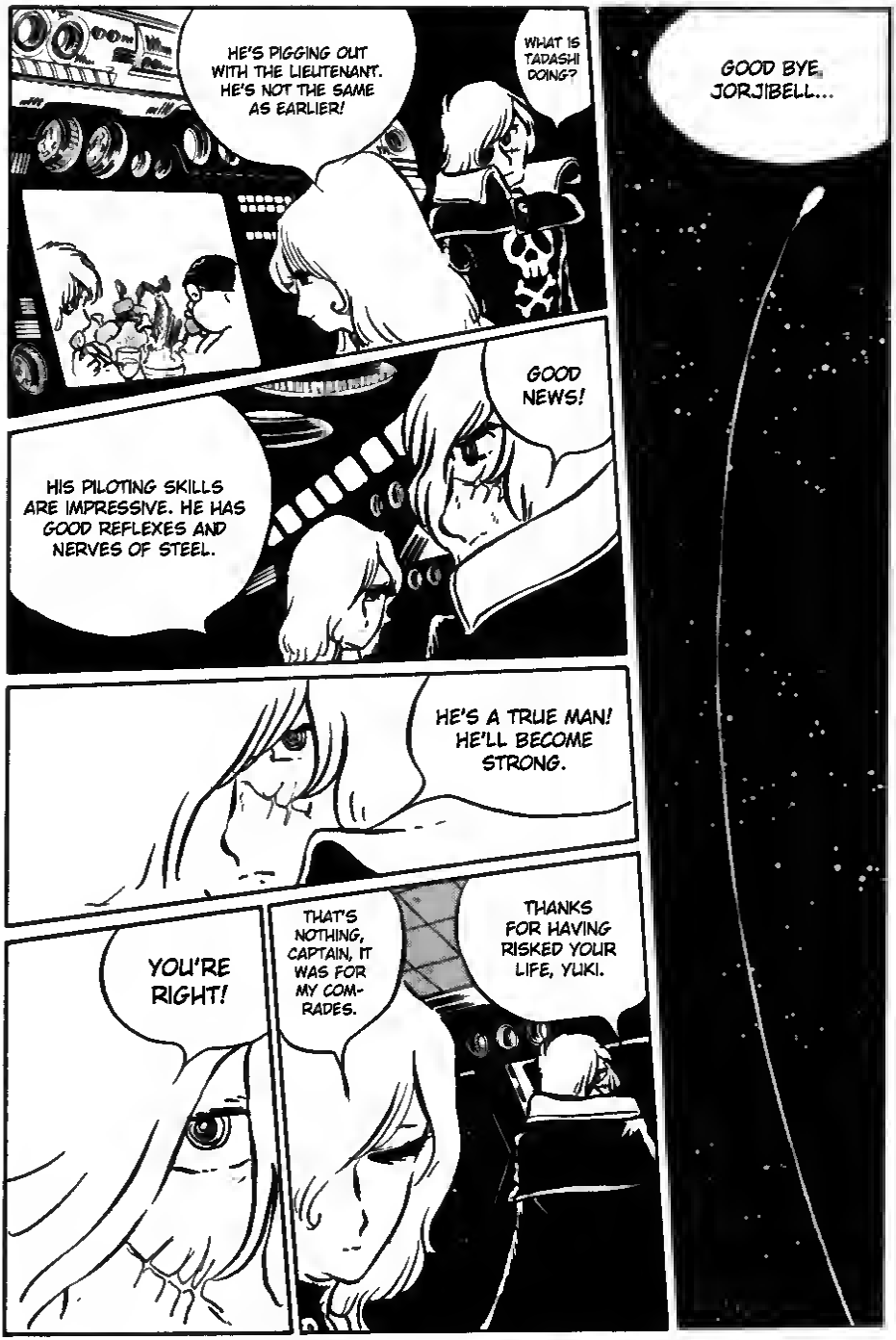

YOU DID IT TO GIVE CONFIDENCE TO THE SECOND SHIP'S PILOT, DIDN'T YOU? OR WAS IT TO NOT HURT HIS PRIDE? THAT'S WHY YOU SLOWED DOWN ON PURPOSE.
SO IT'S YOU WHO STOOD IN MY WAY?
YOU'VE UNDERESTIMATED ME, AND THAT, I CANNOT STAND...
SO WHAT? WHAT DOES IT MATTER?
I'M ADMIRATIVE THOUGH, SEEING THE WAY YOU'VE ACTED TO SPARE THE FEELINGS OF THE ONE WHO WAS FOLLOWING YOU.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE THE MAZONE HAVE LOST EVERY COMPASSION!
BUT IF I'VE BEEN DEFEATED, I TAKE COMFORT IN KNOWING THAT MY ENEMIES HAVE EMOTIONS...
.....


WHEN I RETURN... QUEEN LAFRESIA WILL BE MAD! AND TO PUNISH ME, SHE'LL SEND ME TO WAGE AN EVEN MORE DANGEROUS FIGHT!
HARLOCK HAS AGREED TO LET ME LEAVE.
.....
THE NEXT TIME WE MEET, IT'LL SURELY BE THE LAST...
AT THAT MOMENT, I'D LIKE YOU TO REMEMBER THAT SOME OF THE MAZONE ARE CAPABLE OF FEELING EMOTIONS TOO.
I'M SURE THAT SOMEDAY, YOU'LL FIND OUT WHY THE MAZONE, FOR THE MOST PART, HAVE BECOME SO INSENSITIVE...
I WON'T TELL ANYBODY THAT YOU'VE ACTED TO SPARE THE PRIDE OF THE YOUNG MAN WHO WAS FOLLOWING YOU.
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO TELL YOU.
THANKS FOR THE COMPLIMENTS!

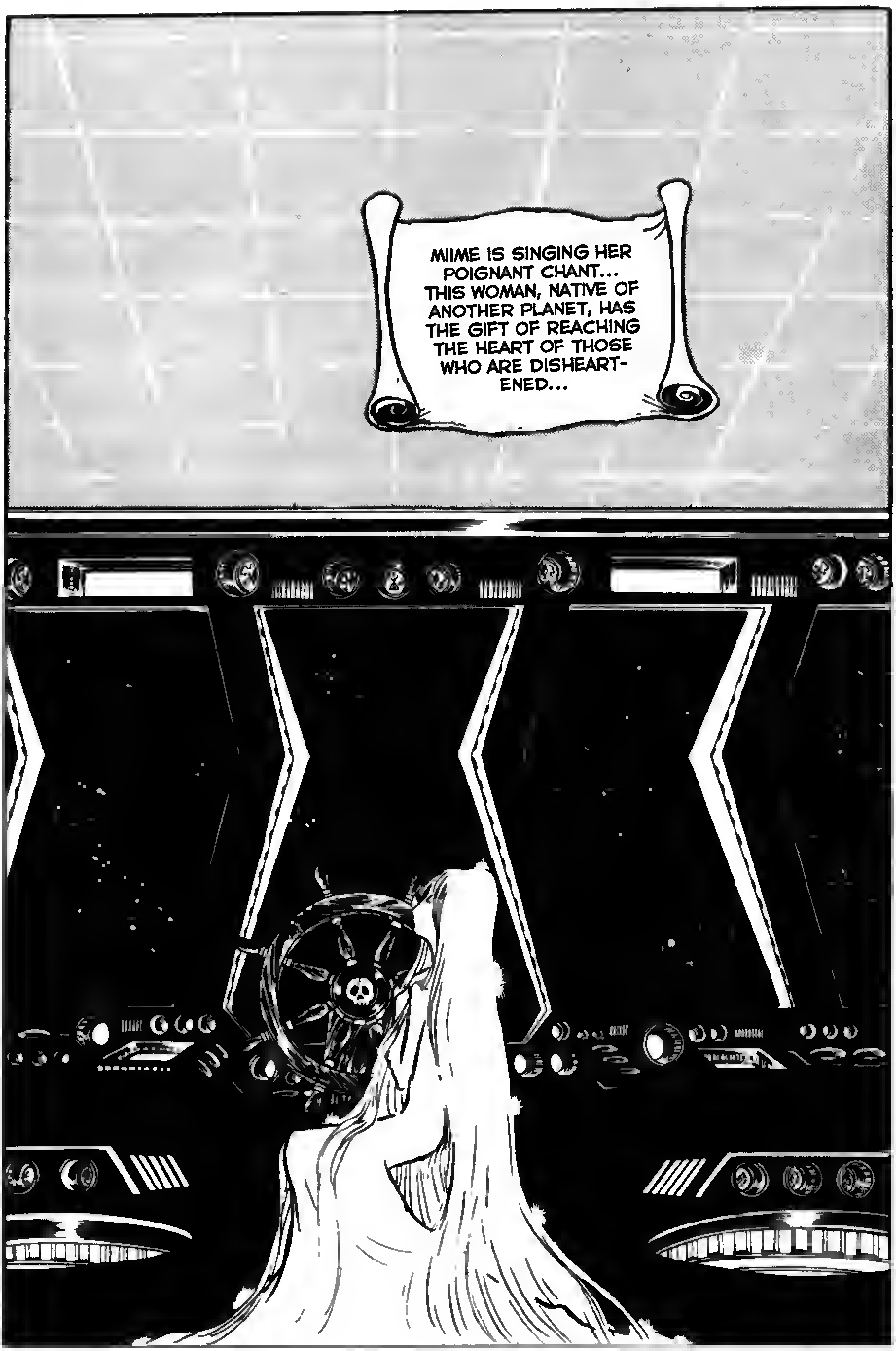

HOW DO YOU...?
SO SHE FIGURED THAT YOUR MANEUVER'S GOAL WAS TO GIVE TADASHI SOME CONFIDENCE AND TO PROTECT HIS PRIDE.
I'VE BEEN CONGRATULATED BY THE MAZONE!
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T TELL ANYONE.
JORJIBELL WON'T TELL IT EITHER, I'M SURE OF THAT.
I CARE A LOT FOR TADASHI TOO.
NO MAN CAN STAND BEING HUMILIATED BY A WOMAN.
NOT A SINGLE ONE!
HARLOCK. I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEANT WHEN YOU SPOKE OF YOUR "COMRADES".
GOOD LUCK TO YOU, JORJIBELL!

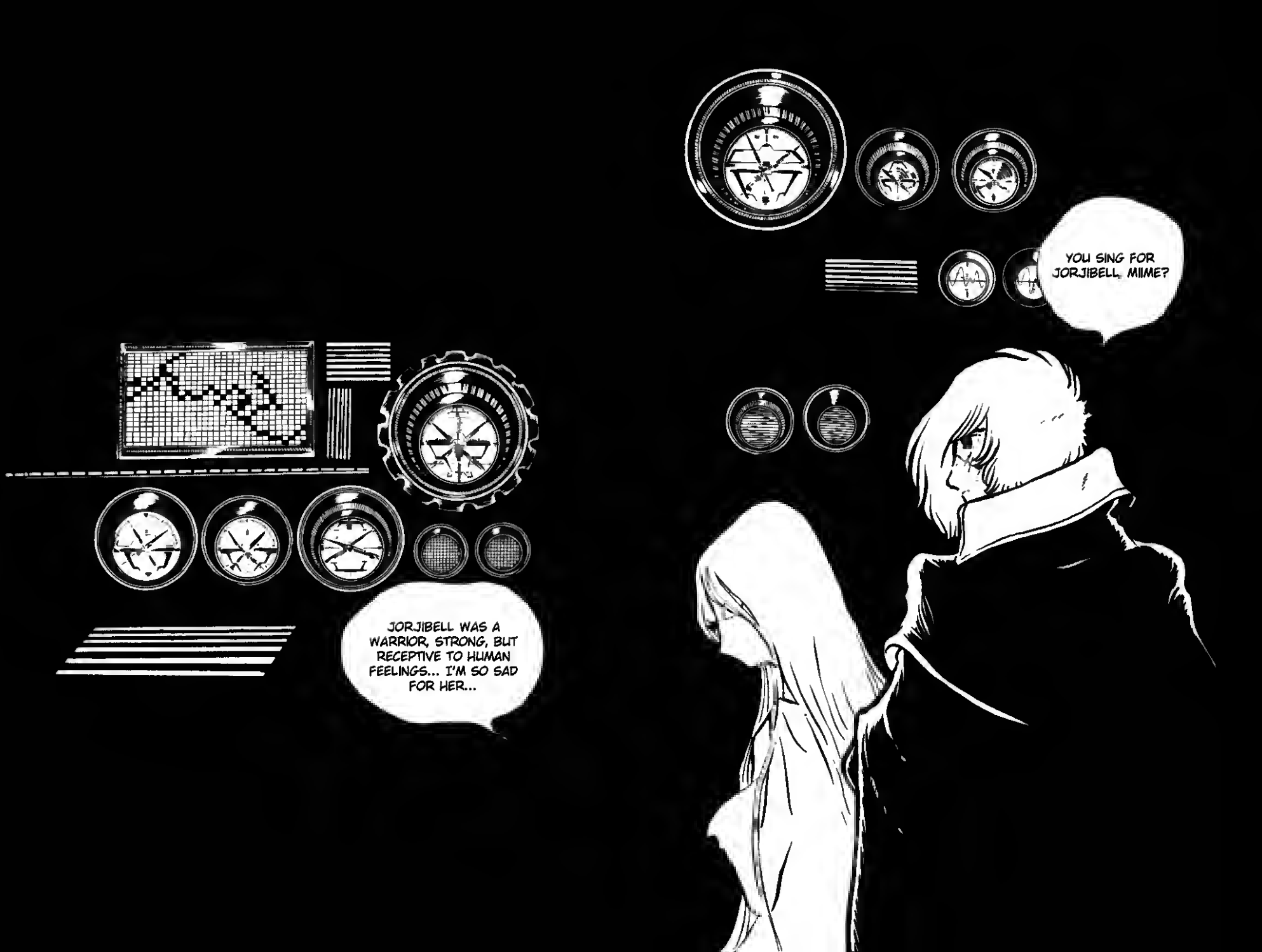

YOU'RE LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH FRIENDS!
I'LL TRY TO TALK ABOUT IT TO THE QUEEN DURING MY REPORT.
BY THE WAY, PLEASE GIVE MY REGARDS TO THE MYSTERIOUS FELLOW WE HAVEN'T MANAGED TO IDENTIFY.
COUNT ON ME.
FAREWELL! WE MIGHT MEET AGAIN ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.



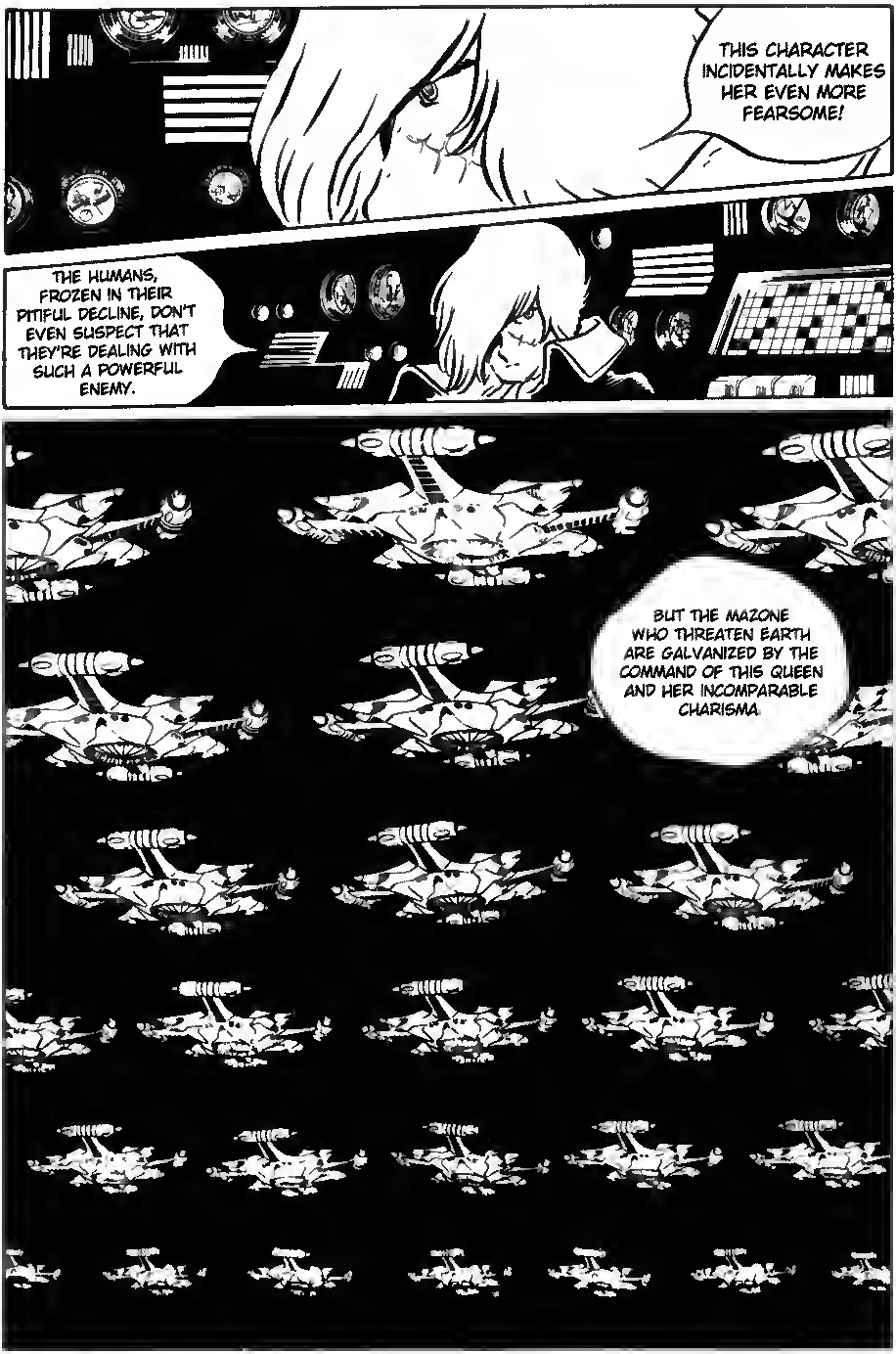

WHAT IS TADASHI DOING?
HE'S PIGGING OUT WITH THE LIEUTENANT. HE'S NOT THE SAME AS EARLIER!
GOOD NEWS!
HIS PILOTING SKILLS ARE IMPRESSIVE. HE HAS GOOD REFLEXES AND NERVES OF STEEL.
GOOD BYE, JORJIBELL...
HE'S A TRUE MAN! HE'LL BECOME STRONG.
THANKS FOR HAVING RISKED YOUR LIFE, YUKI.
THAT'S NOTHING, CAPTAIN, IT WAS FOR MY COMRADES.
YOU'RE RIGHT!

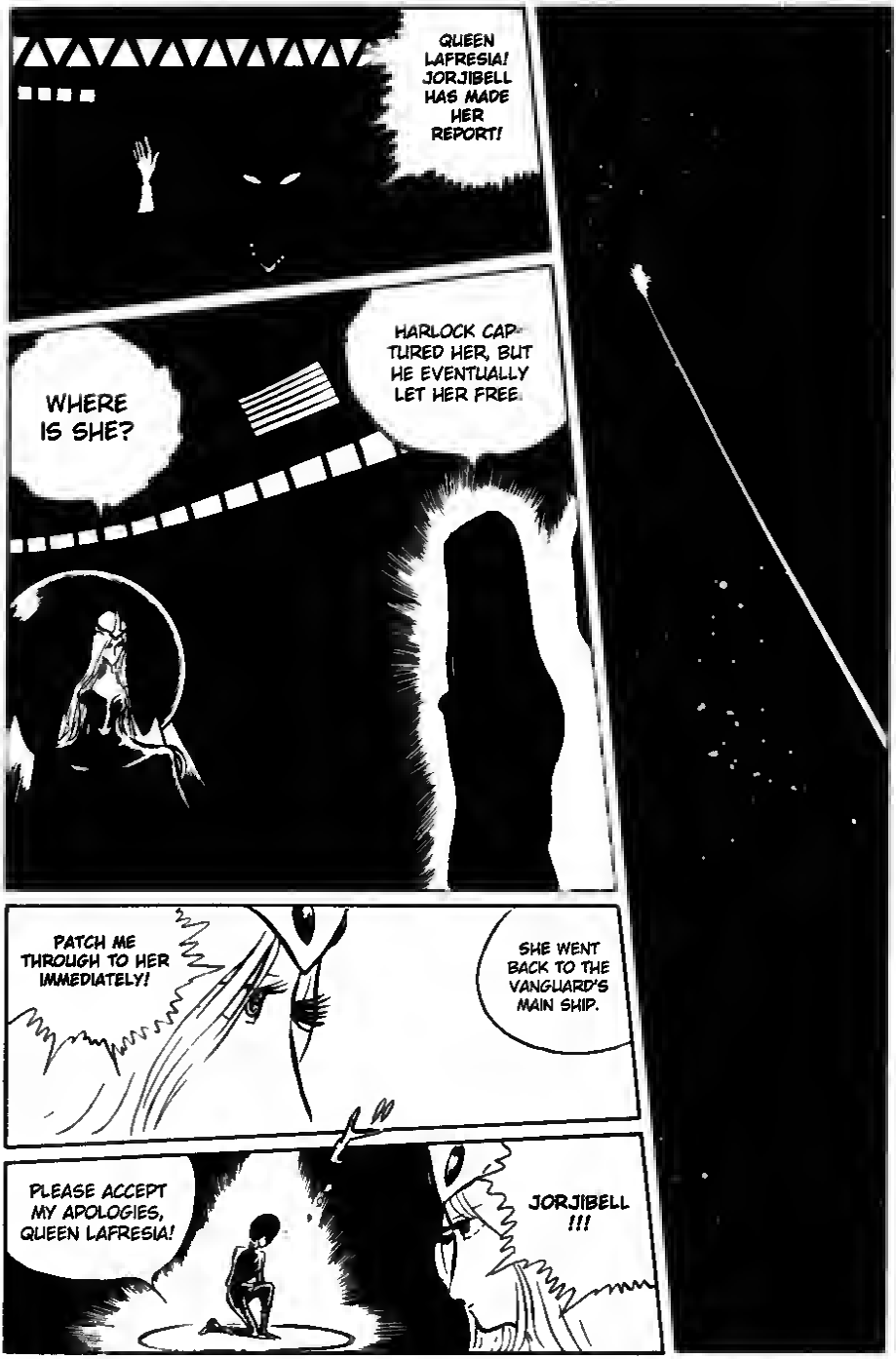
SOME EVOLVED BEINGS, WITHOUT EMOTIONS, ARE MAKING WAY MORE EFFICIENT FIGHTING MACHINES. THE MAZONE ARE READY TO GET RID OF THE LAST REMAINDERS OF SENSITIVITY THEY HAVE, BUT NO ONE KNOWS WHY...

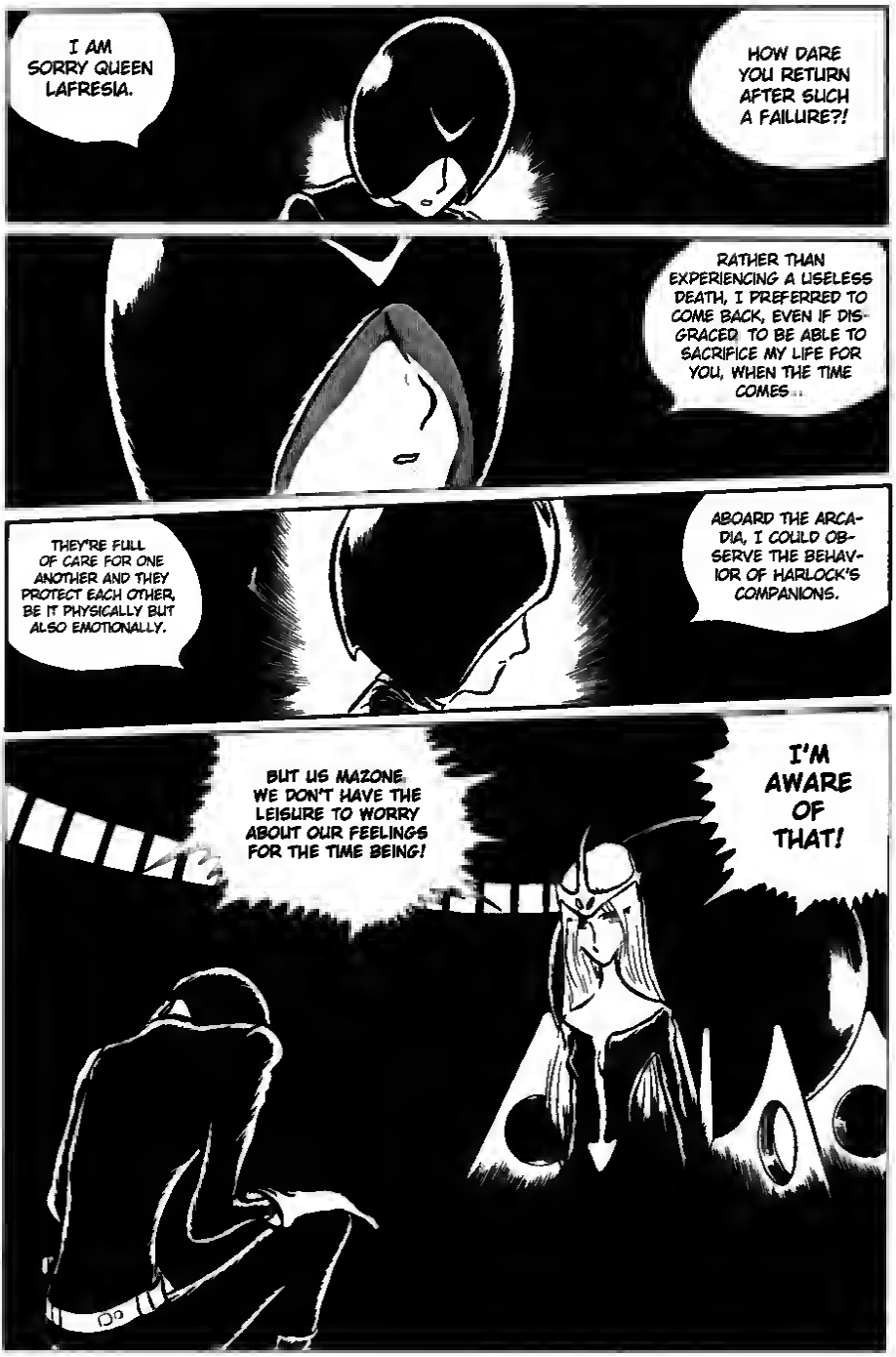

MIIME IS SINGING HER POIGNANT CHANT... THIS WOMAN, NATIVE OF ANOTHER PLANET, HAS THE GIFT OF REACHING THE HEART OF THOSE WHO ARE DISHEARTENED...


JORJIBELL WAS A WARRIOR, STRONG, BUT RECEPTIVE TO HUMAN FEELINGS... I'M SO SAD FOR HER...
YOU SING FOR JORJIBELL, MIIME?

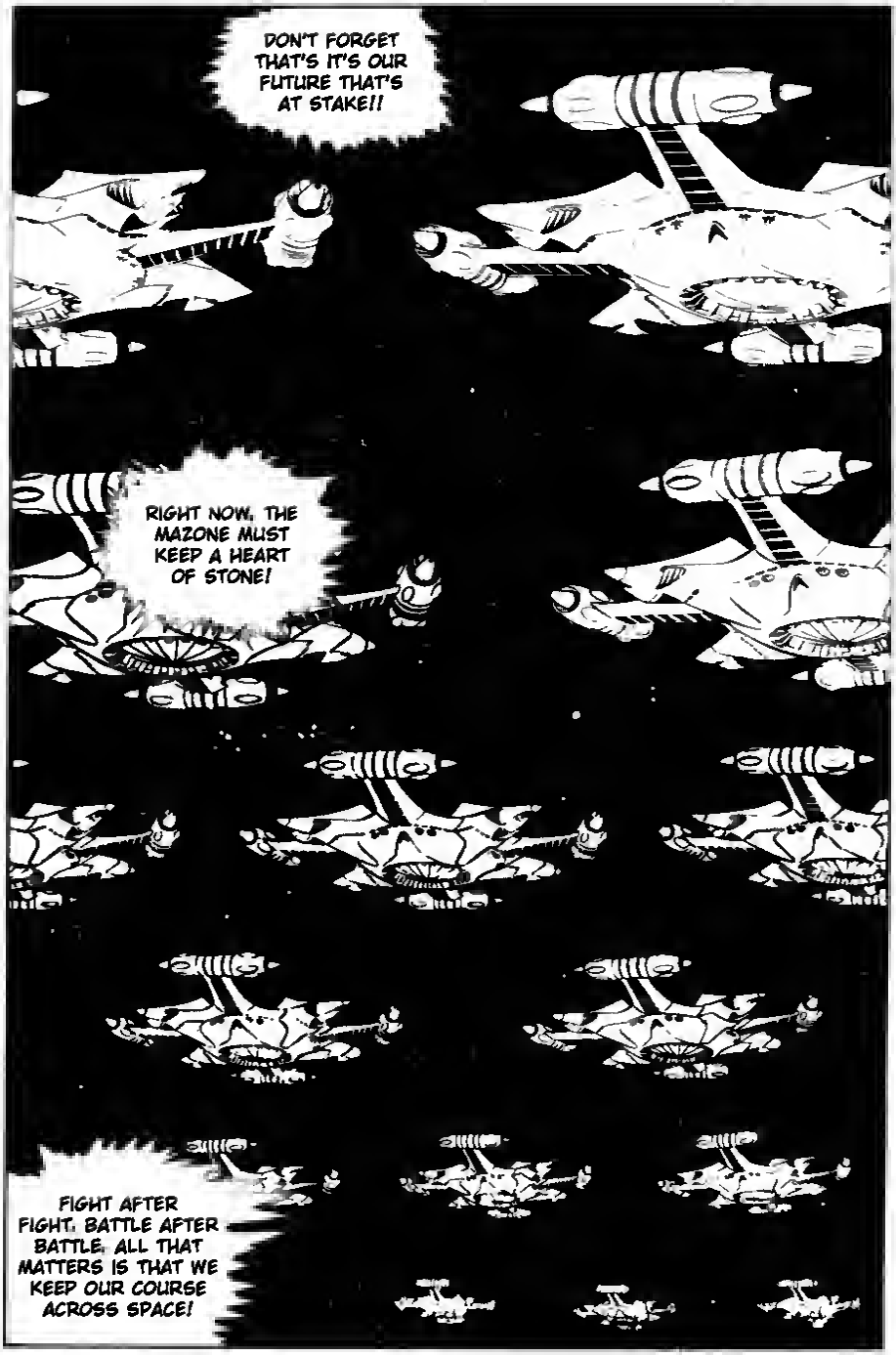
REST ASSURED : LAFRESIA IS A FAIR AND RESPECTABLE QUEEN. JORJIBELL WON'T BE PUNISHED.
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE, HARLOCK?
TO BE IN CHARGE OF AN ARMADA OF THIS SIZE, LAFRESIA NEEDS TO BE AN EXCEPTIONAL QUEEN!
OTHERWISE, SHE COULDN'T BE AT THE HEAD OF SUCH AN EMPIRE.

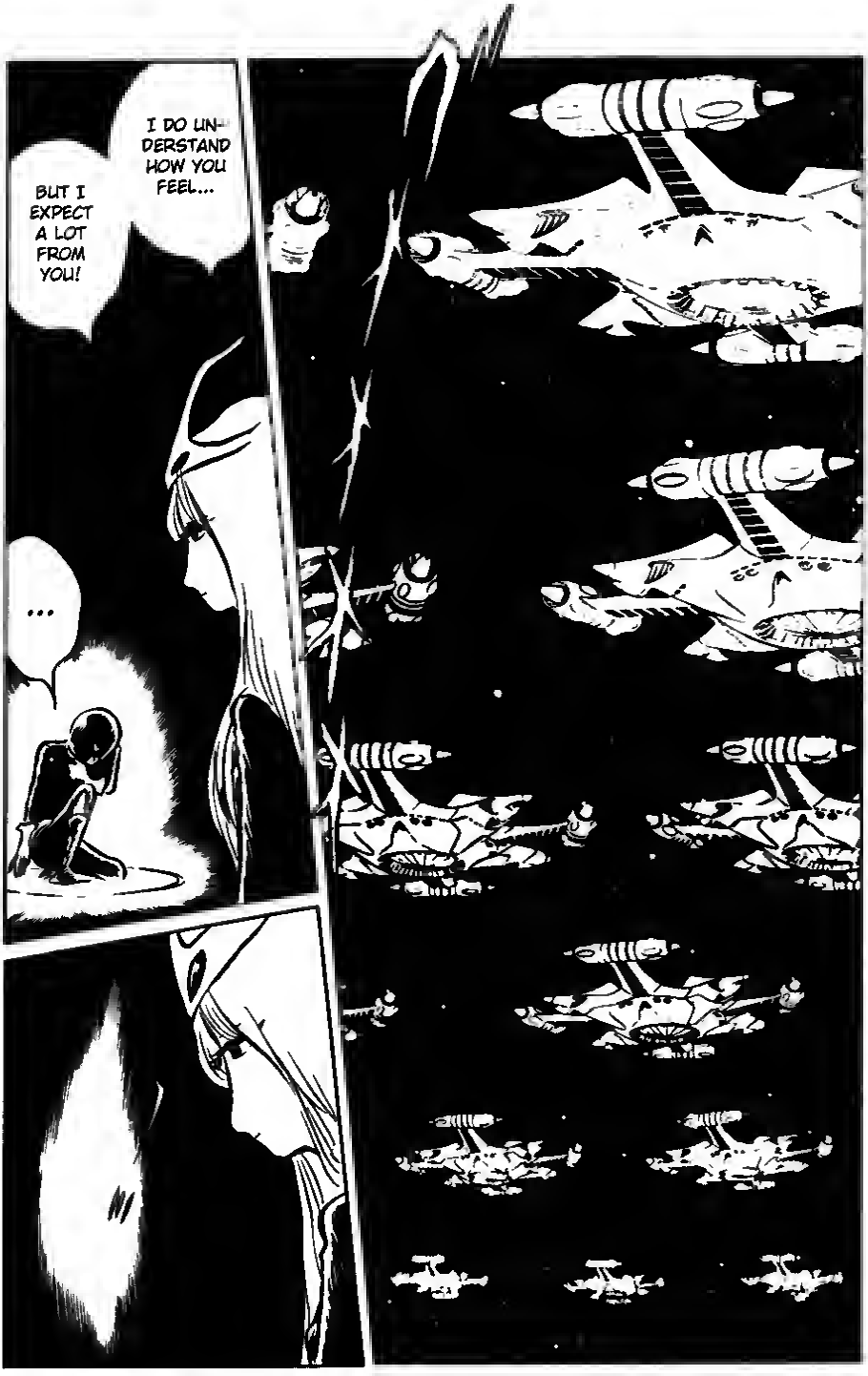

THIS CHARACTER INCIDENTALLY MAKES HER EVEN MORE FEARSOME!
THE HUMANS, FROZEN IN THEIR PITIFUL DECLINE, DON'T EVEN SUSPECT THAT THEY'RE DEALING WITH SUCH A POWERFUL ENEMY.
BUT THE MAZONE WHO THREATEN EARTH ARE GALVANIZED BY THE COMMAND OF THIS QUEEN AND HER INCOMPARABLE CHARISMA.


QUEEN LAFRESIA! JORJIBELL HAS MADE HER REPORT!
WHERE IS SHE?
HARLOCK CAPTURED HER, BUT HE EVENTUALLY LET HER FREE.
PATCH ME THROUGH TO HER IMMEDIATELY!
SHE WENT BACK TO THE VANGUARD'S MAIN SHIP.
PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES, QUEEN LAFRESIA!
JORJIBELL !!!

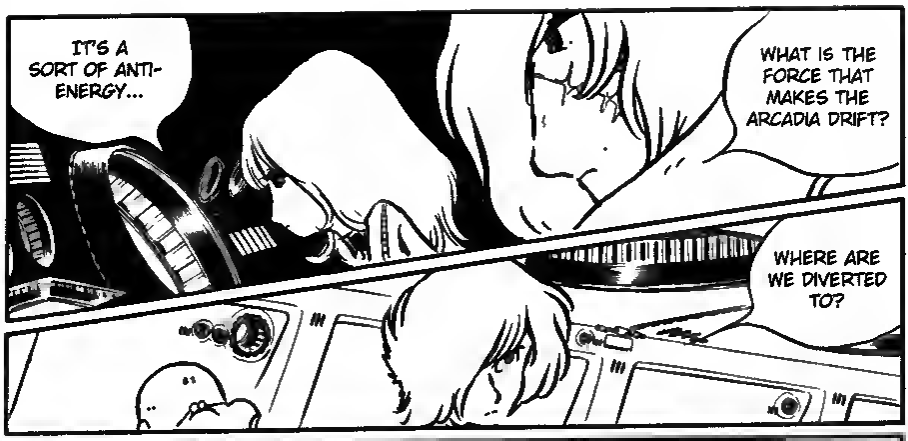

I AM SORRY QUEEN LAFRESIA.
HOW DARE YOU RETURN AFTER SUCH A FAILURE?!
RATHER THAN EXPERIENCING A USELESS DEATH, I PREFERRED TO COME BACK, EVEN IF DISGRACED TO BE ABLE TO SACRIFICE MY LIFE FOR YOU, WHEN THE TIME COMES...
THEY'RE FULL OF CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER AND THEY PROTECT EACH OTHER, BE IT PHYSICALLY BUT ALSO EMOTIONALLY.
ABOARD THE ARCADIA, I COULD OBSERVE THE BEHAVIOR OF HARLOCK'S COMPANIONS.
BUT US MAZONE, WE DON'T HAVE THE LEISURE TO WORRY ABOUT OUR FEELINGS FOR THE TIME BEING!
I'M AWARE OF THAT!

YOU KNOW THE REASON WHY WE'RE CROSSING SPACE!
WE MIGHT THINK ABOUT OUR EMOTIONS WHEN WE REACH OUR GOAL!


DON'T FORGET THAT'S IT'S OUR FUTURE THAT'S AT STAKE!!
RIGHT NOW, THE MAZONE MUST KEEP A HEART OF STONE!
FIGHT AFTER FIGHT. BATTLE AFTER BATTLE. ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT WE KEEP OUR COURSE ACROSS SPACE!


I DO UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL...
BUT I EXPECT A LOT FROM YOU!
...

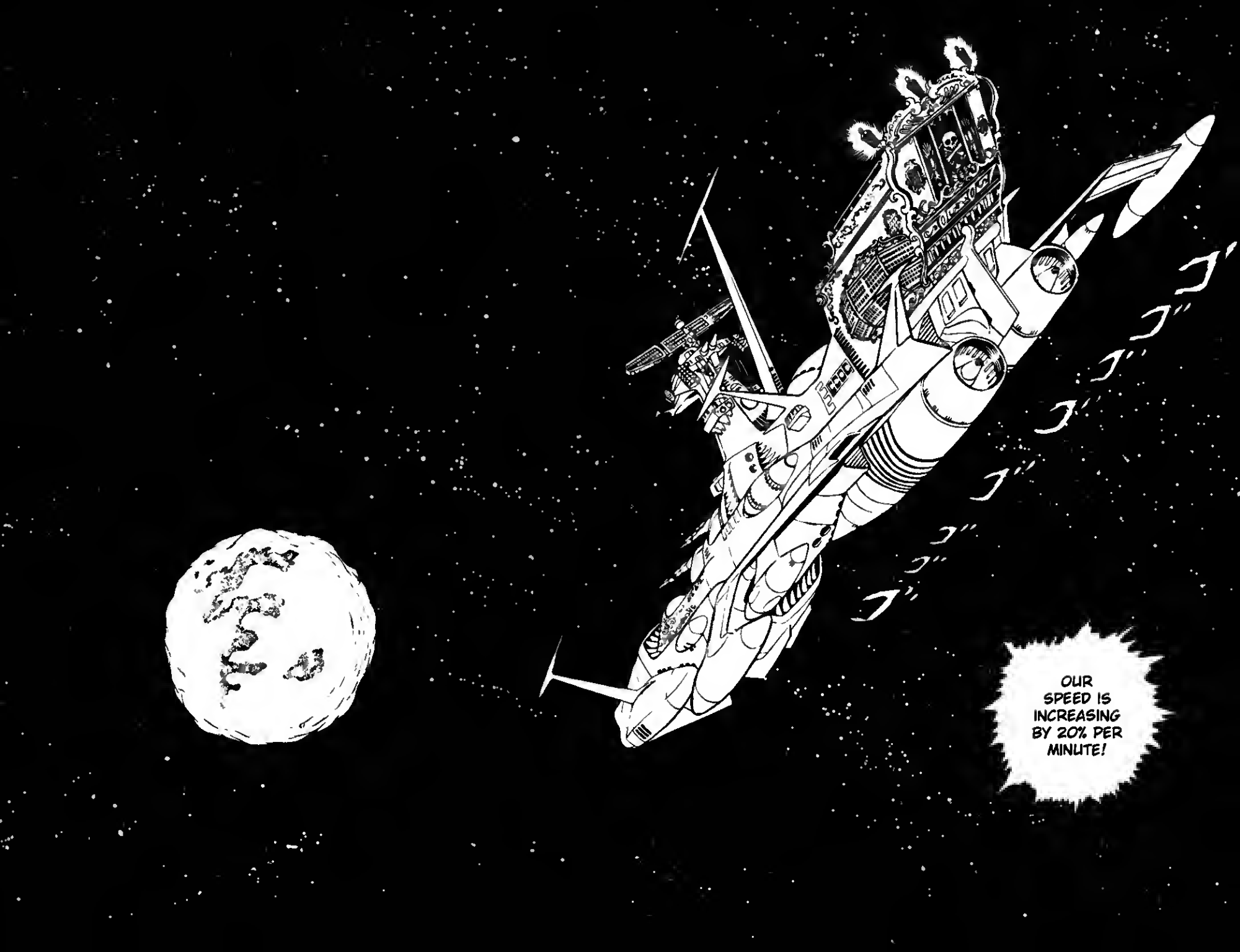
!!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

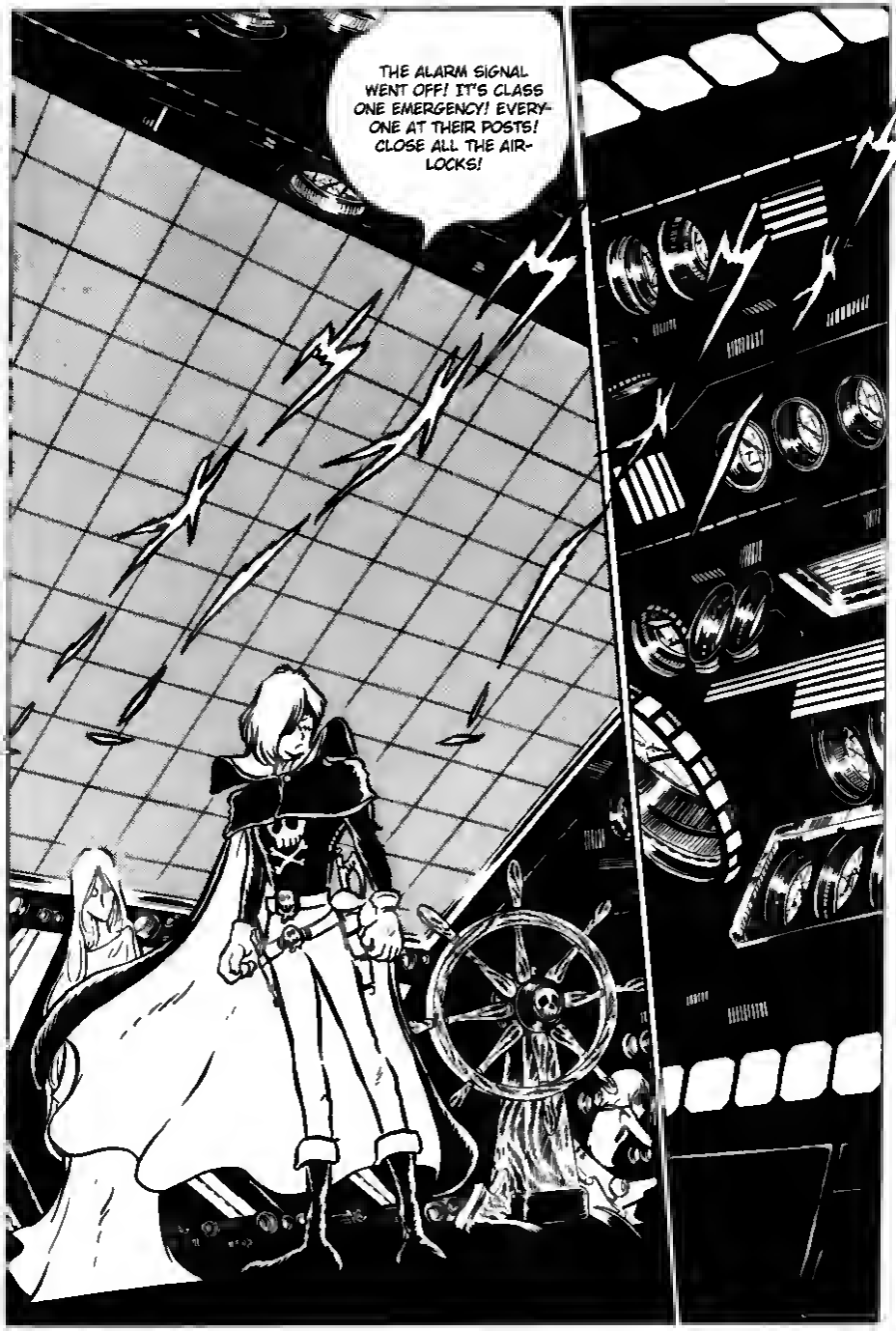

IT'S A SORT OF ANTI-ENERGY...
WHAT IS THE FORCE THAT MAKES THE ARCADIA DRIFT?
WHERE ARE WE DIVERTED TO?

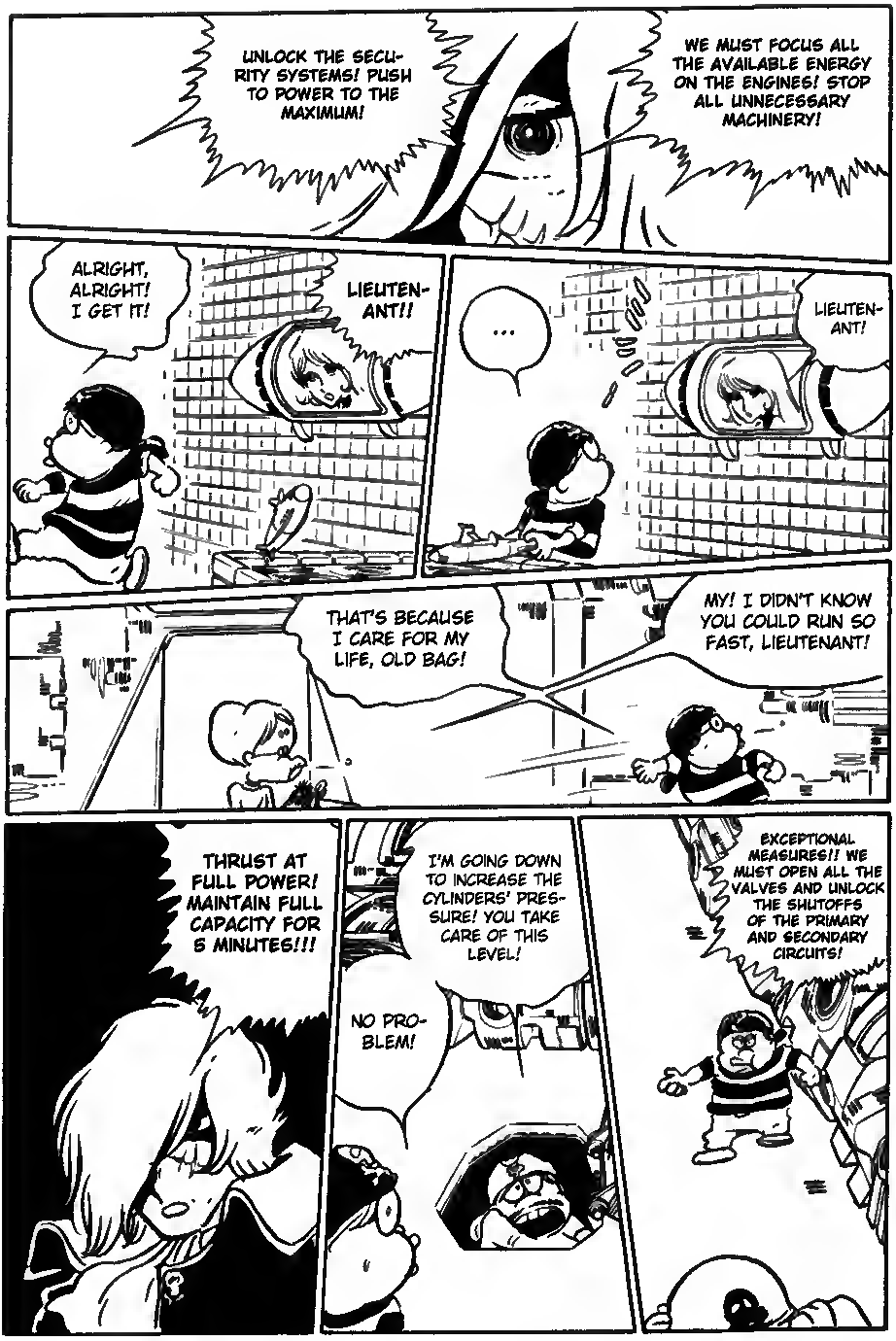
TOWARD THIS PLANET, STRAIGHT AHEAD...

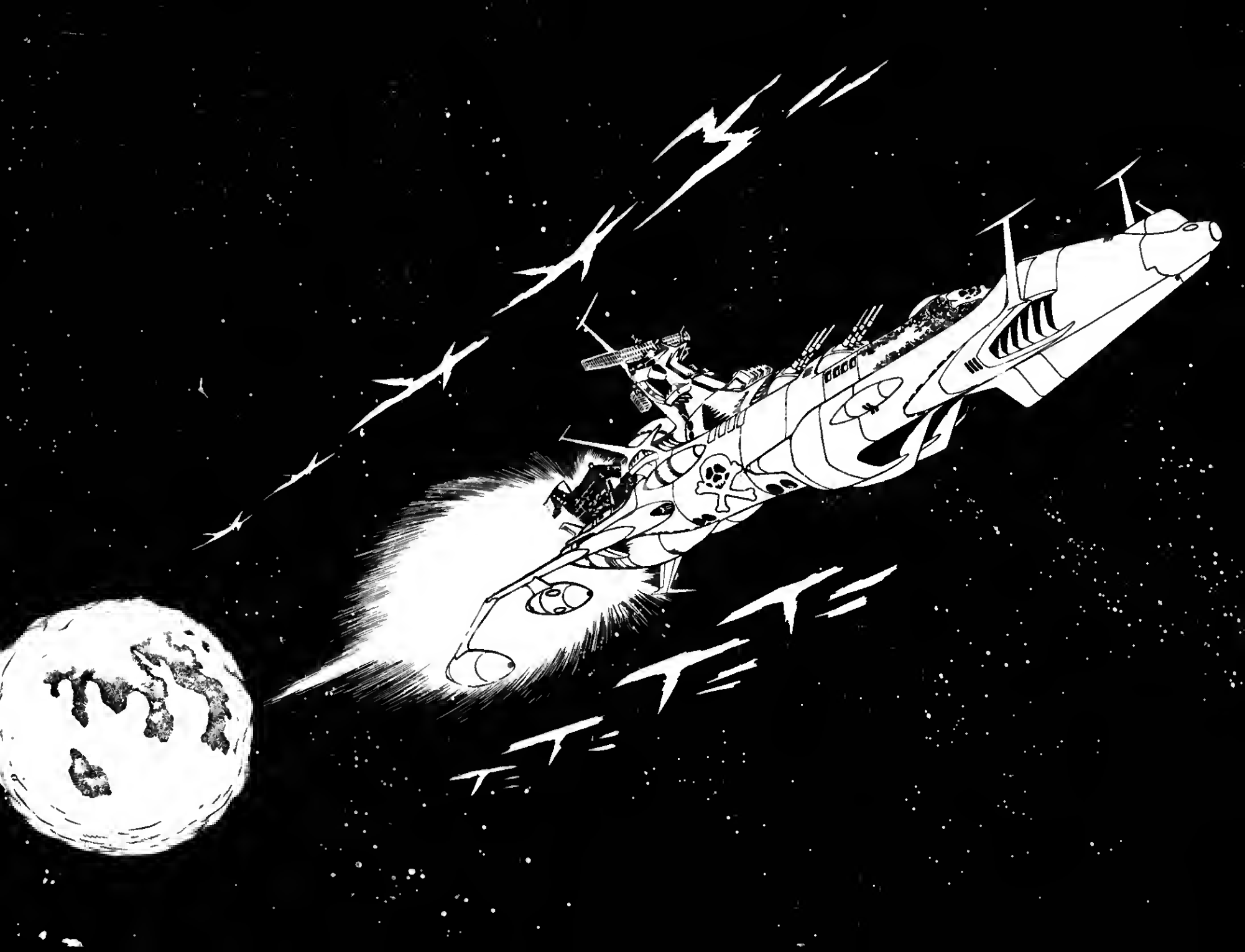
THIS PLANET?
BUT... WHY?

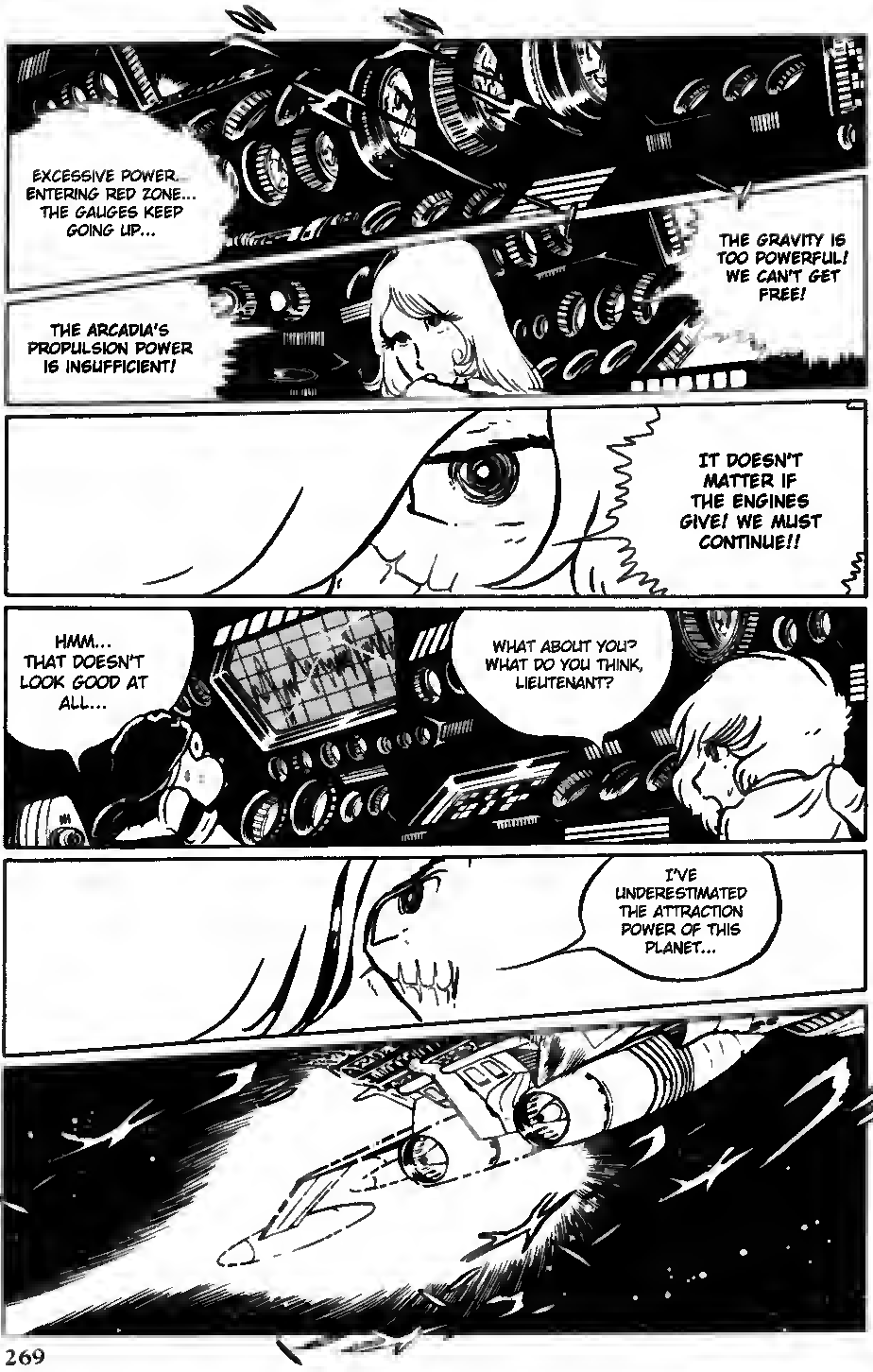
THE GRAVITATIONAL FORCE IS SUDDENLY INCREASING! WE'RE LOSING CONTROL! WE'RE SUCKED IN!


OUR SPEED IS INCREASING BY 20% PER MINUTE!


THE ALARM SIGNAL WENT OFF! IT'S CLASS ONE EMERGENCY! EVERY-ONE AT THEIR POSTS! CLOSE ALL THE AIR-LOCKS!

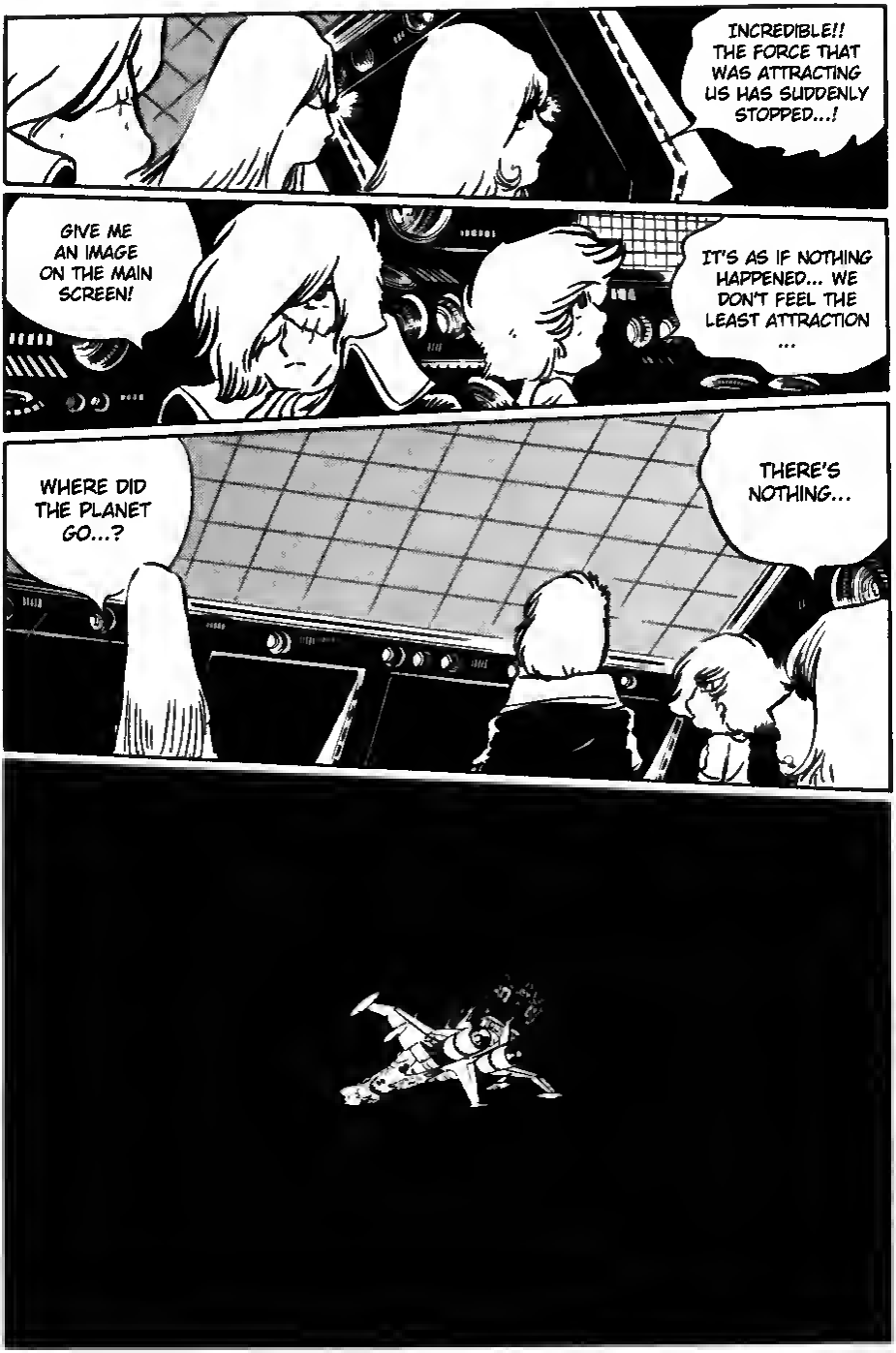

UNLOCK THE SECURITY SYSTEMS! PUSH TO POWER TO THE MAXIMUM!
WE MUST FOCUS ALL THE AVAILABLE ENERGY ON THE ENGINES! STOP ALL UNNECESSARY MACHINERY!
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT! I GET IT!
LIEUTENANT!!
...
LIEUTENANT!
THAT'S BECAUSE I CARE FOR MY LIFE, OLD BAG!
MY! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD RUN SO FAST, LIEUTENANT!
THRUST AT FULL POWER! MAINTAIN FULL CAPACITY FOR 5 MINUTES!!!
I'M GOING DOWN TO INCREASE THE CYLINDERS' PRESSURE! YOU TAKE CARE OF THIS LEVEL!
NO PROBLEM!
EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES!! WE MUST OPEN ALL THE VALVES AND UNLOCK THE SHUTOFFS OF THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CIRCUITS!

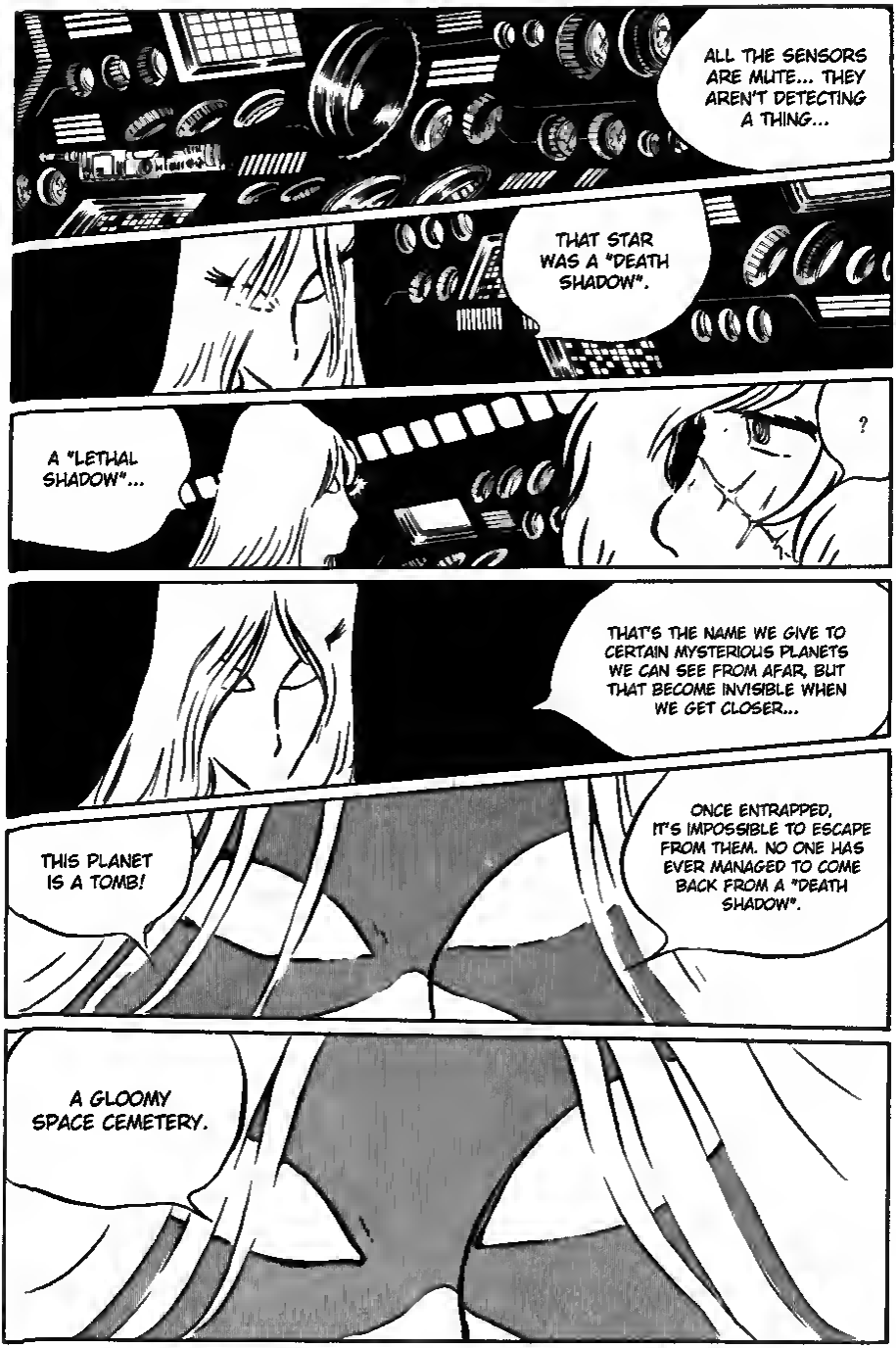


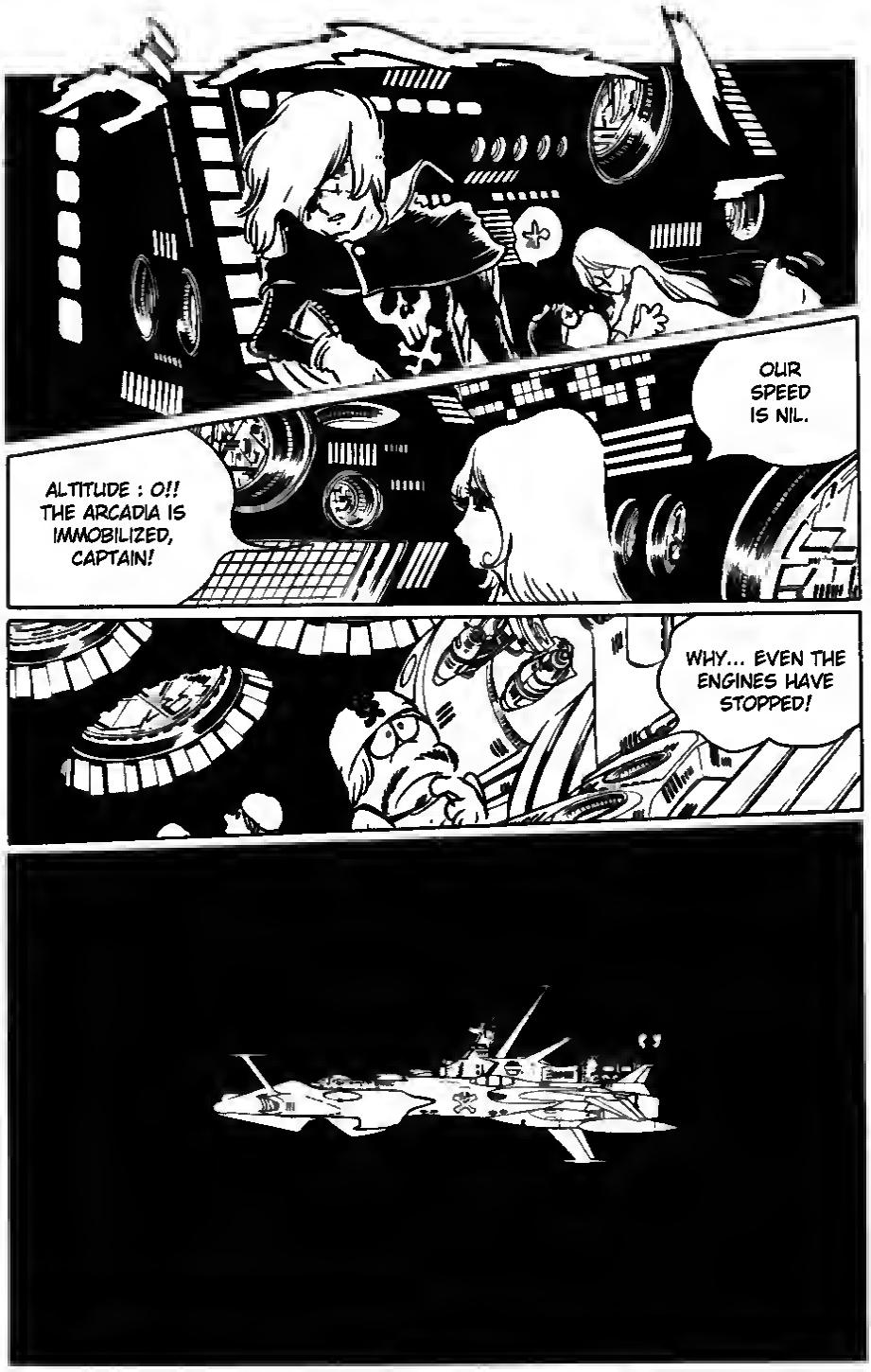

EXCESSIVE POWER... ENTERING RED ZONE... THE GAUGES KEEP GOING UP...
THE GRAVITY IS TOO POWERFUL! WE CAN'T GET FREE!
THE ARCADIA'S PROPULSION POWER IS INSUFFICIENT!
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THE ENGINES GIVE! WE MUST CONTINUE!!
HMM... THAT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD AT ALL...
WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT DO YOU THINK, LIEUTENANT?
I'VE UNDERESTIMATED THE ATTRACTION POWER OF THIS PLANET...

ONLY 22 MINUTES LEFT BEFORE CONTACT!! THE GRAVITATIONAL FORCE IS 18000 TIMES SUPERIOR THAN THE ARCADIA'S PROPULSION POWER!!

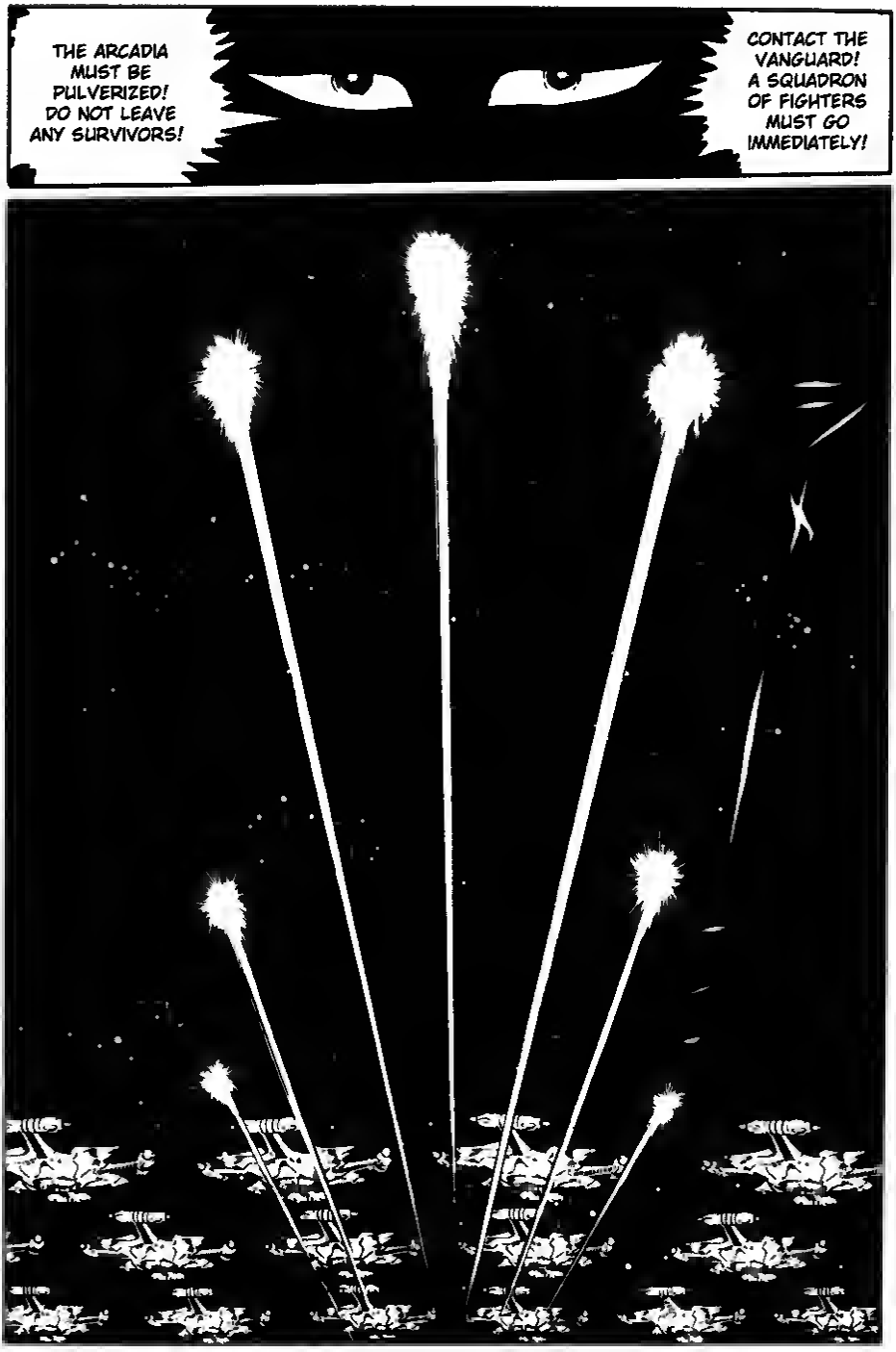
...
HARLOCK...
MIIME... DON'T WORRY, WE STILL HAVE A BIT OF TIME LEFT! LET'S THINK...
HUM...
WHAT COULD WE DO TO GET OUT OF THIS... YOU HAVE AN IDEA?
KOAAAAA
MEOOW!
WE JUST GOT TO DRINK WHILE WE WAIT, MY OLD MII.

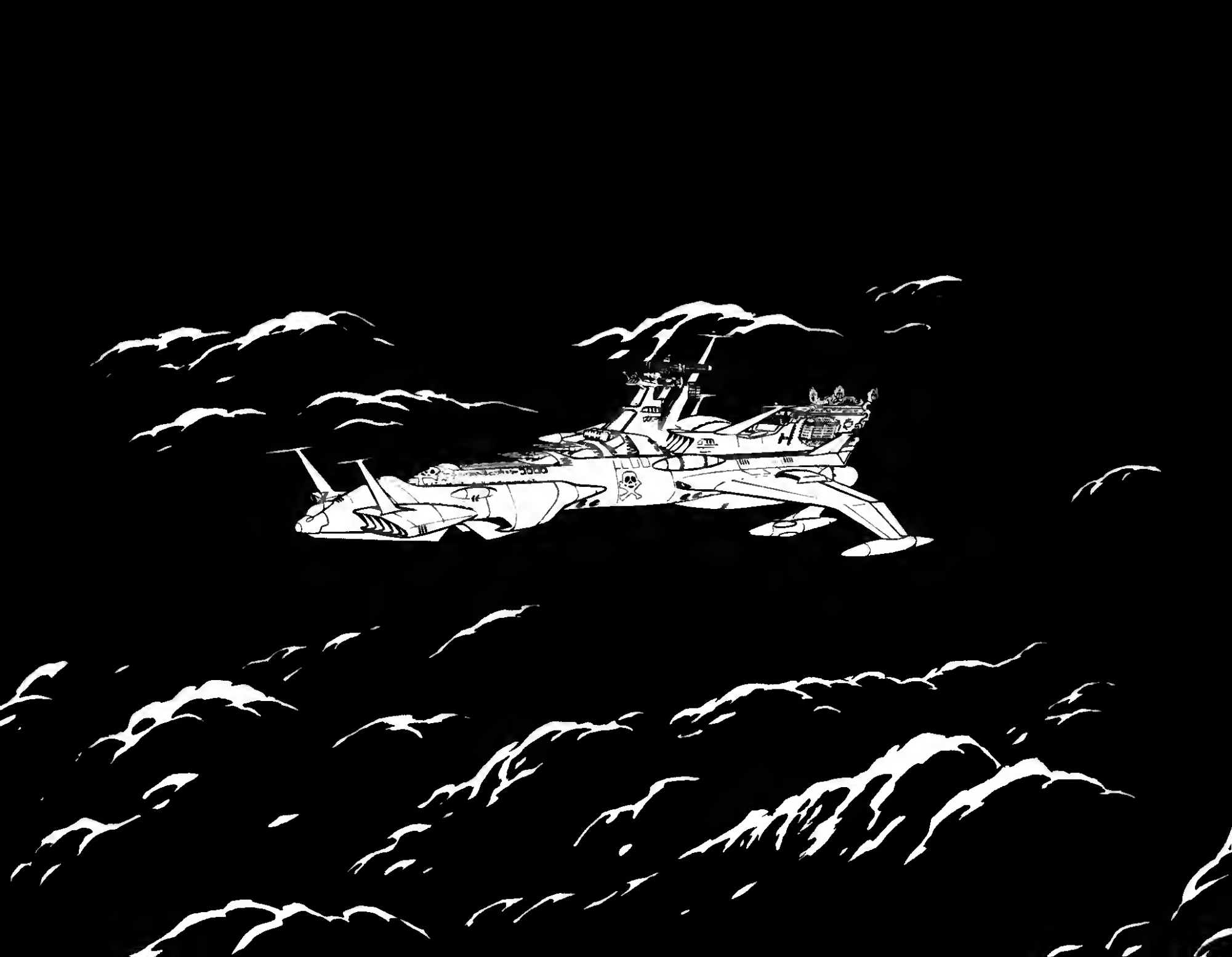

INCREDIBLE!! THE FORCE THAT WAS ATTRACTING US HAS SUDDENLY STOPPED...!
GIVE ME AN IMAGE ON THE MAIN SCREEN!
IT'S AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED... WE DON'T FEEL THE LEAST ATTRACTION ...
WHERE DID THE PLANET GO...?
THERE'S NOTHING...

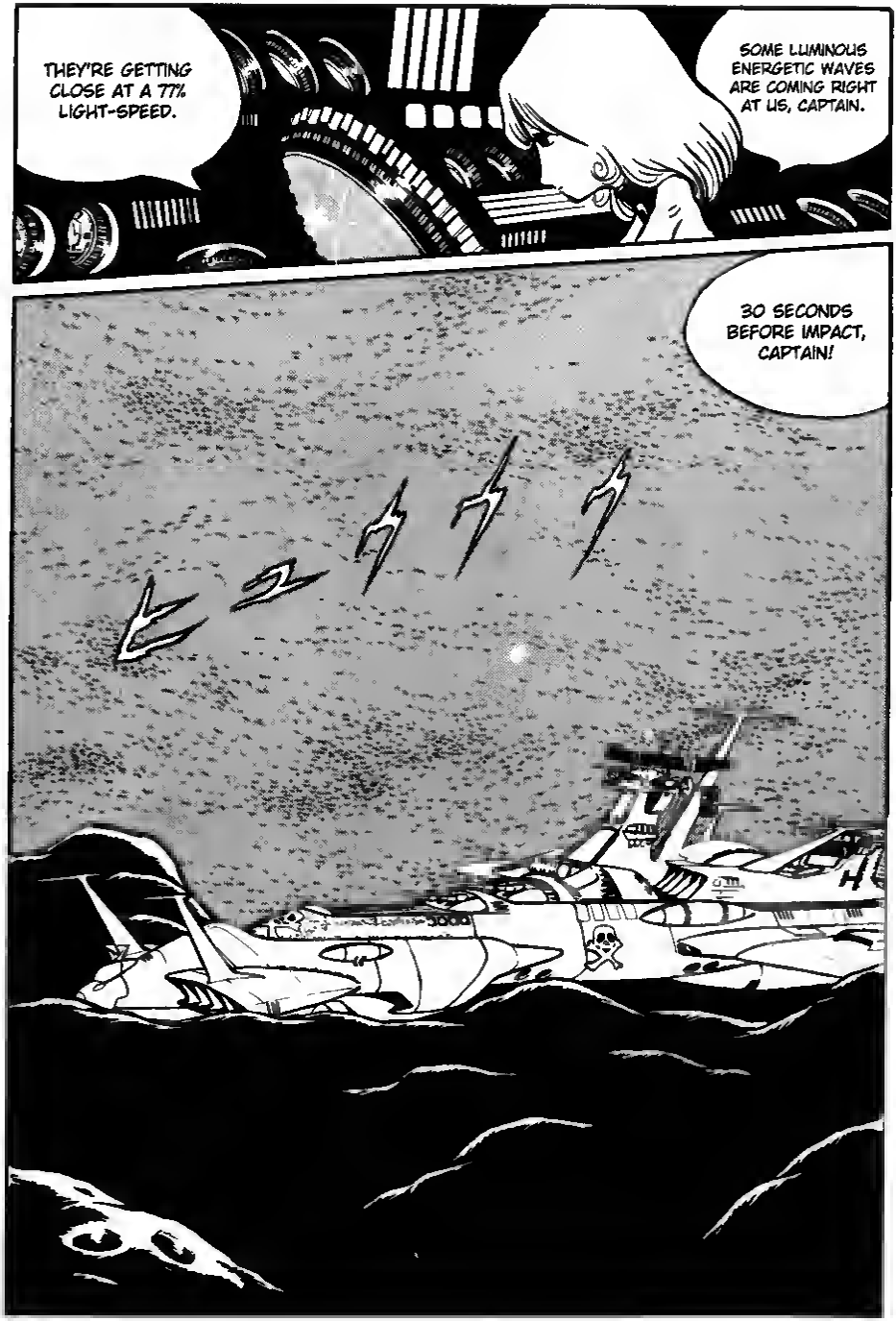

ALL THE SENSORS ARE MUTE... THEY AREN'T DETECTING A THING...
THAT STAR WAS A "DEATH SHADOW".
A "LETHAL SHADOW"...
?
THAT'S THE NAME WE GIVE TO CERTAIN MYSTERIOUS PLANETS WE CAN SEE FROM AFAR, BUT THAT BECOME INVISIBLE WHEN WE GET CLOSER...
ONCE ENTRAPPED, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO ESCAPE FROM THEM. NO ONE HAS EVER MANAGED TO COME BACK FROM A "DEATH SHADOW".
THIS PLANET IS A TOMB!
A GLOOMY SPACE CEMETERY.


OUR SPEED IS NIL.
ALTITUDE : 0!! THE ARCADIA IS IMMOBILIZED, CAPTAIN!
WHY... EVEN THE ENGINES HAVE STOPPED!

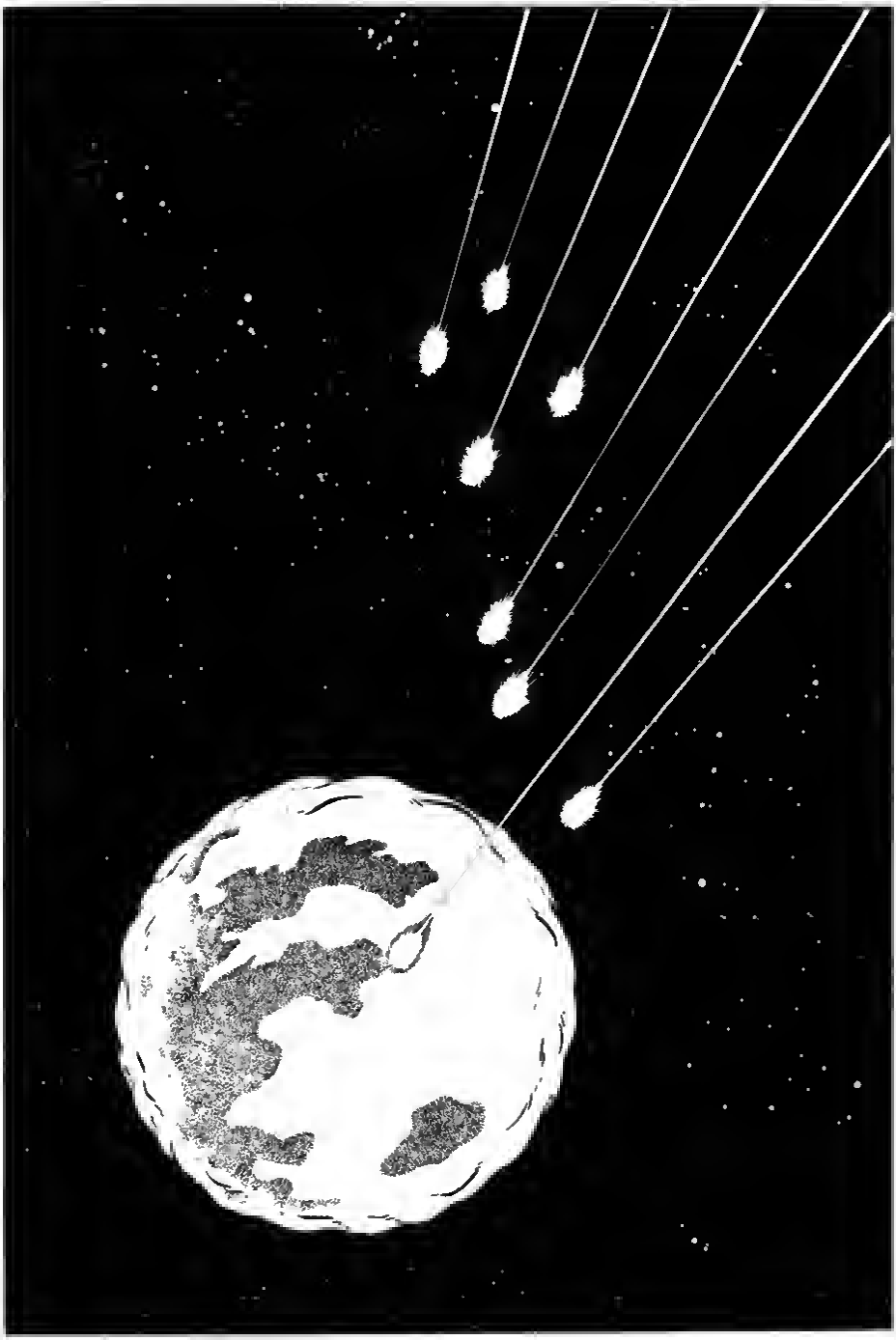
YES, MY QUEEN... HIS SHIP IS IMMOBILIZED. IT SEEMS PARALYZED...
WAS HARLOCK CAUGHT BY THE "DEATH SHADOW"?
ON THIS PLANET, THE SPACESHIPS' THRUST POWER IS TRANSFORMED INTO NEGATIVE ENERGY... THUS THE ARCADIA HAS LOST ITS MOBILITY...
PERFECT... THAT'S THE IDEAL MOMENT TO ATTACK THE ARCADIA!
THEY'RE ORDERING US TO DESTROY THE ENEMY THAT STANDS IN OUR WAY... I WAS WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT...
IT'S A SIGN SENT BY THE GODS, MAZONE.
WE'RE GOING TO DESTROY THE ARCADIA... AND ANNIHILATE HARLOCK AND ALL OF HIS CREW!!


THE ARCADIA MUST BE PULVERIZED! DO NOT LEAVE ANY SURVIVORS!
CONTACT THE VANGUARD! A SQUADRON OF FIGHTERS MUST GO IMMEDIATELY!




THEY'RE GETTING CLOSE AT A 77% LIGHT-SPEED.
SOME LUMINOUS ENERGETIC WAVES ARE COMING RIGHT AT US, CAPTAIN.
30 SECONDS BEFORE IMPACT, CAPTAIN!

HERE ARE THE LOCATIONS OF THE POINTS OF IMPACT : 200 METERS 20° PORT, 300 METERS 15° STARBOARD...
...400 METERS 23° AND 1200 METERS 48°.
THESE SHOTS ARE TOO SCATTERED, AND MOST OF ALL, THEY LACK PRECISION.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF THE DISTANCE...
THE COORDINATES I FIND ARE THE SAME AS YUKI'S...
TADASHI!! TRY TO GIVE ME AN ESTIMATE OF WHERE THEY COME FROM WITH THE HIGH PRECISION SENSOR.
THESE SHOTS SHOULD HAVE HIT US WITHOUT PROBLEM...
ANOTHER SALVO IS COMING!



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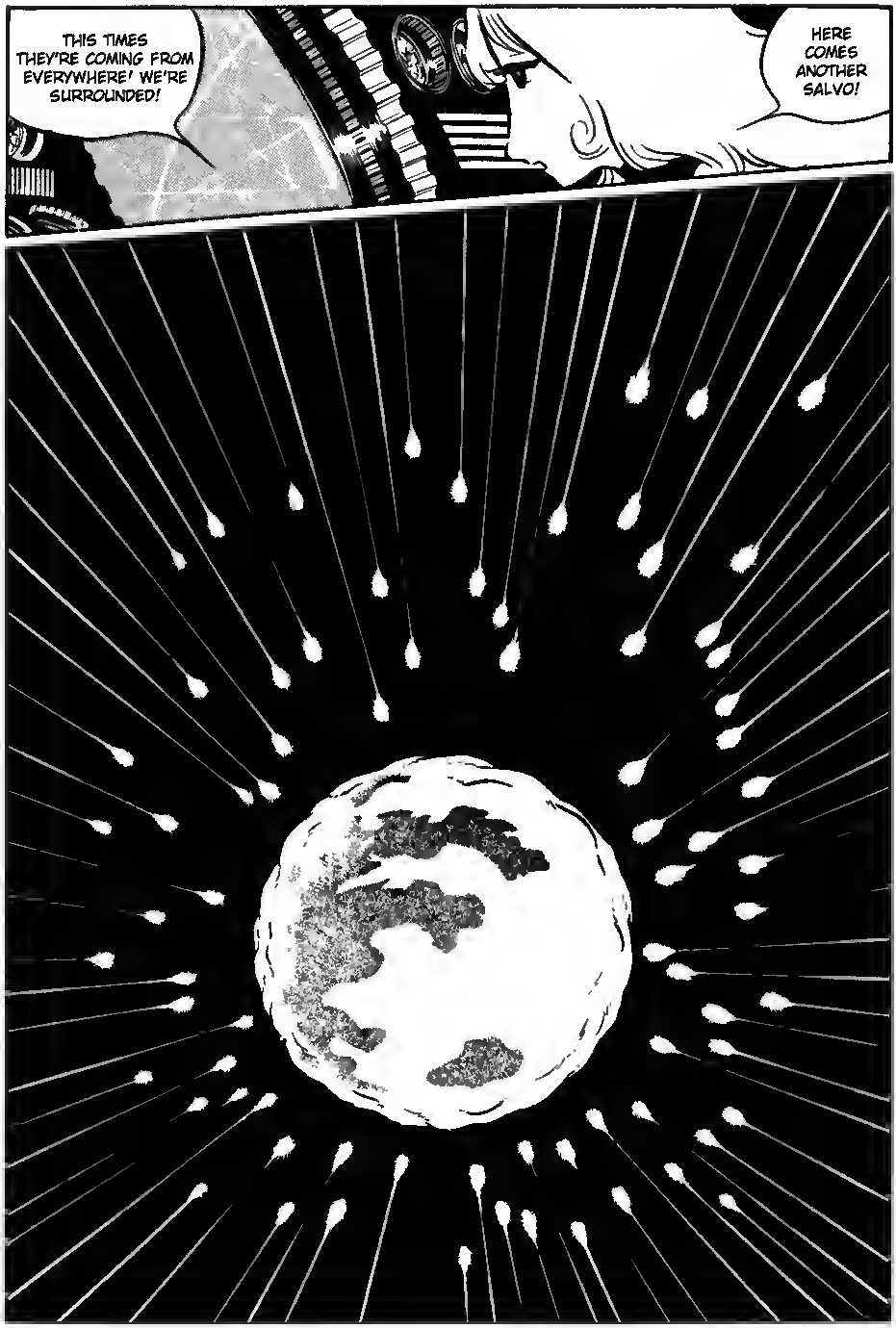
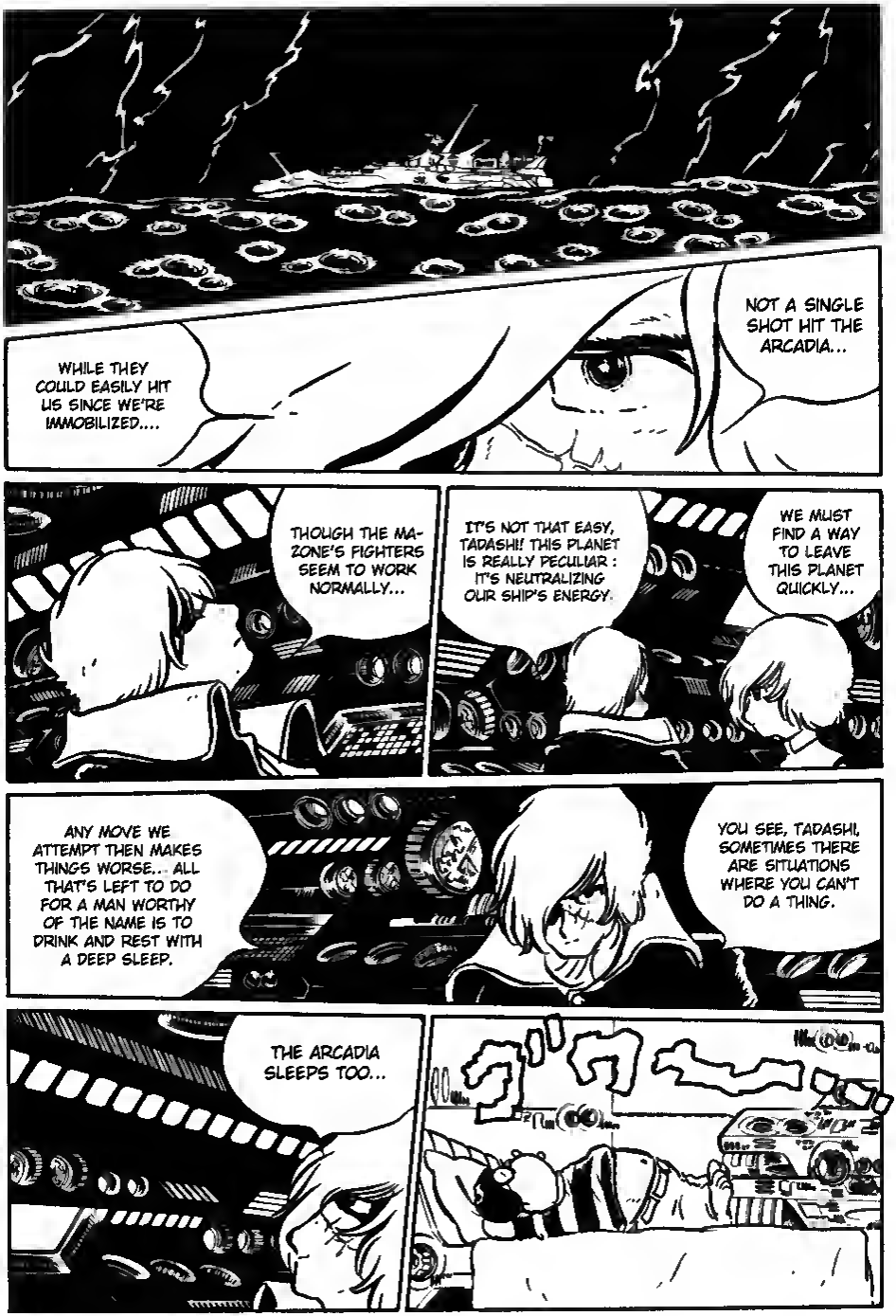
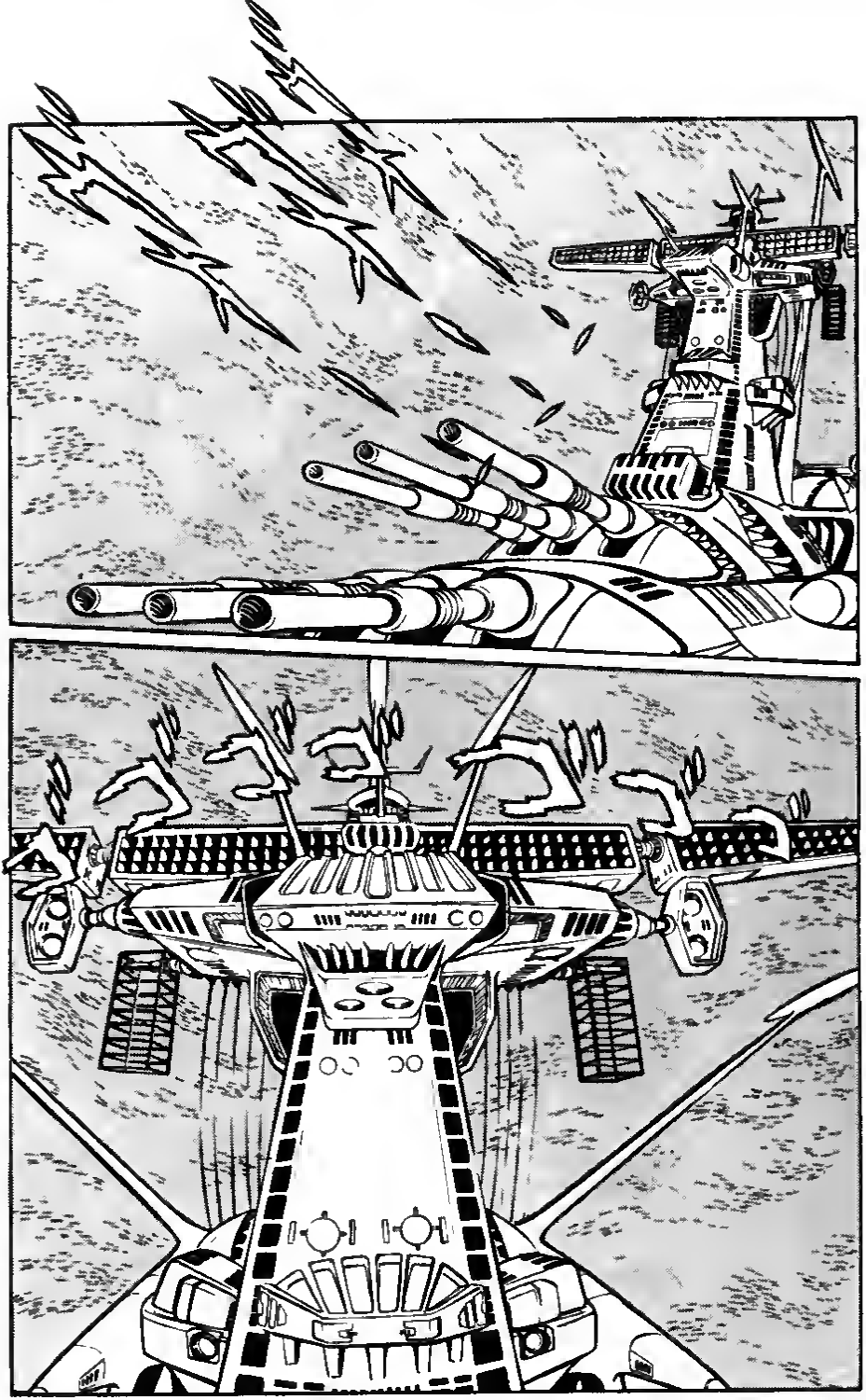
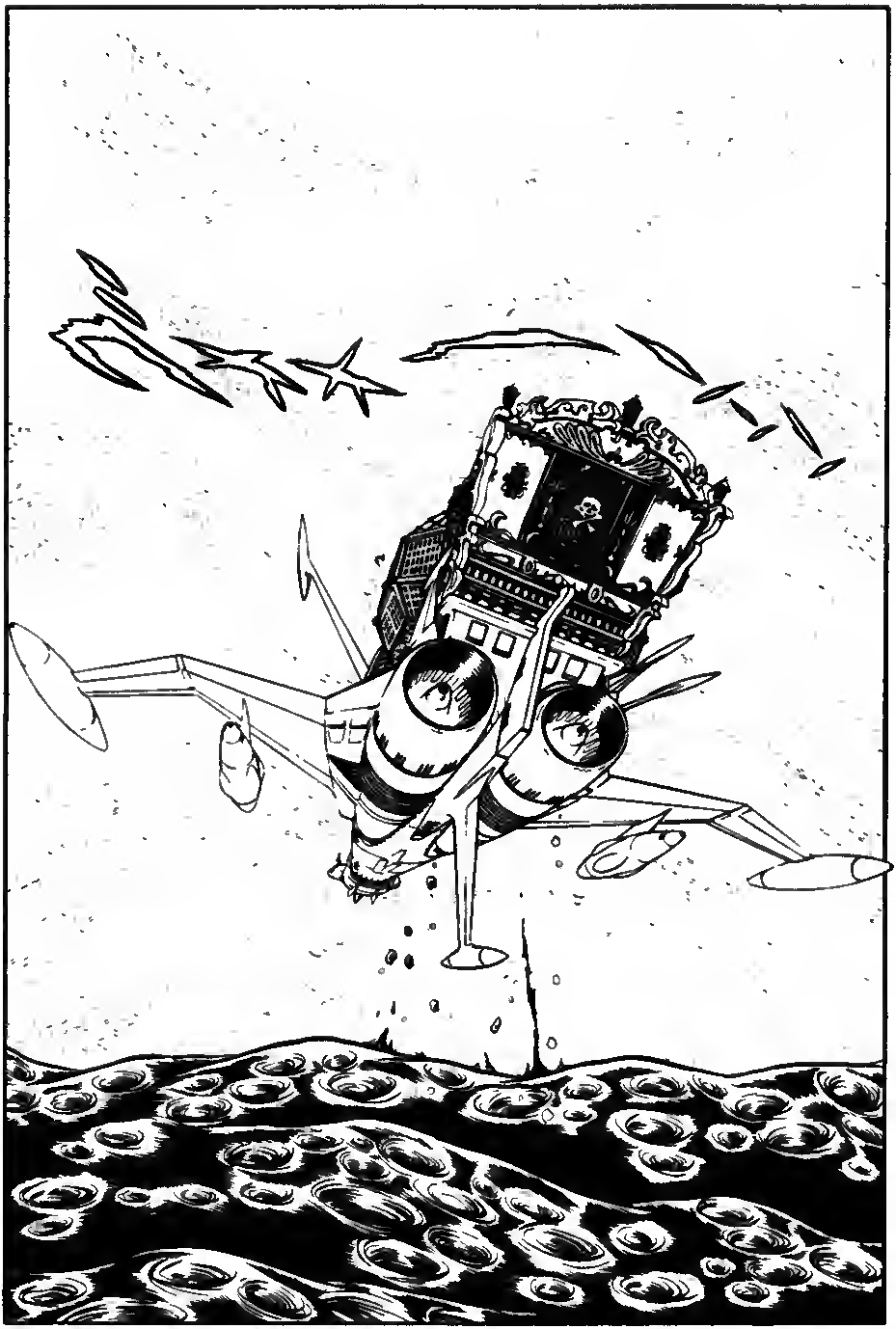
HMM... THE POINTS OF IMPACT ARE ALL PERFECTLY ALIGNED...
THEY'RE WARNING SHOTS, DON'T YOU THINK?
PROBABLY!
BUT DO THEY REALLY THINK I WOULD SUBMIT? THEY DON'T KNOW ME SO WELL!


THIS TIMES THEY'RE COMING FROM EVERYWHERE! WE'RE SURROUNDED!
HERE COMES ANOTHER SALVO!

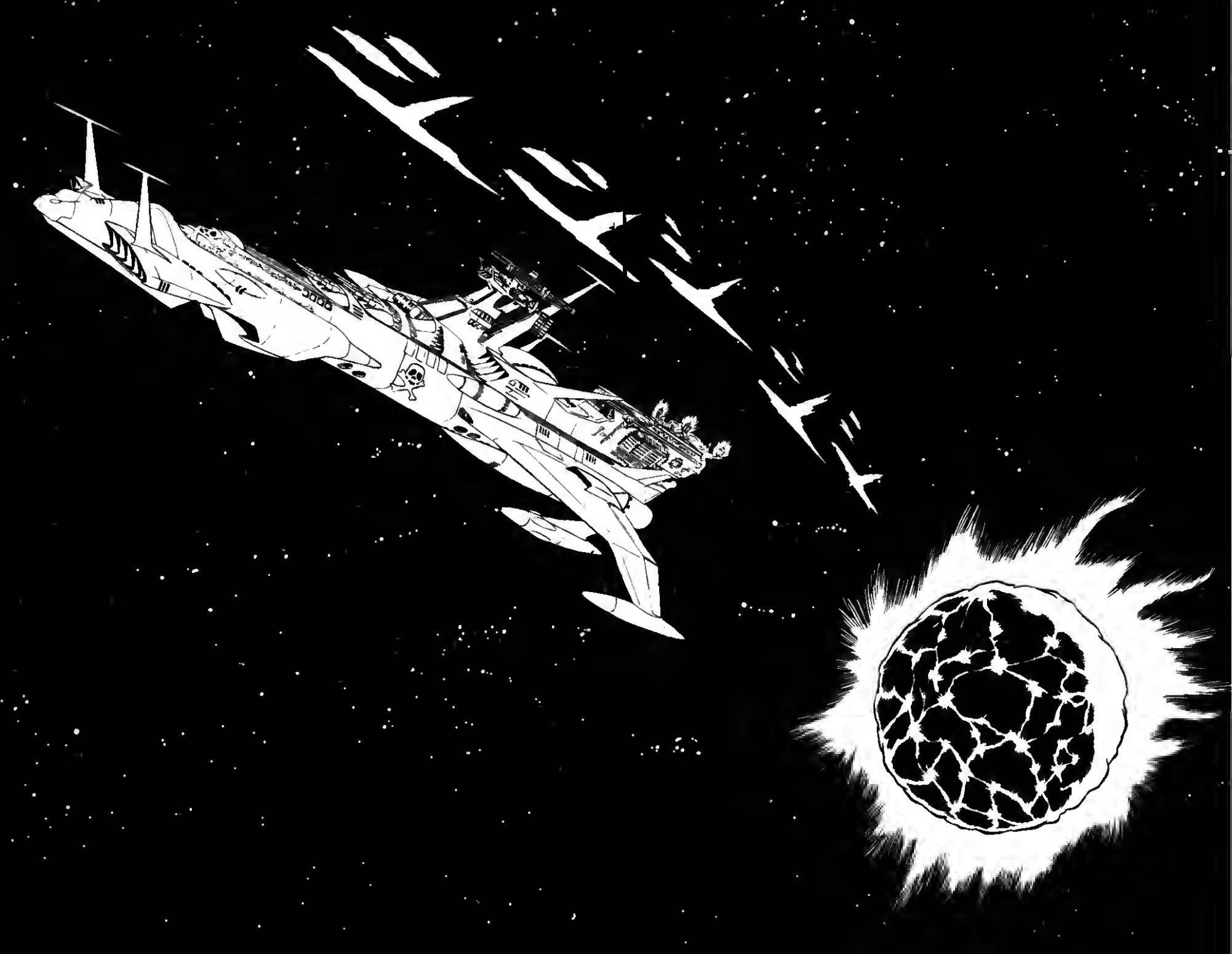

NOT A SINGLE SHOT HIT THE ARCADIA...
WHILE THEY COULD EASILY HIT US SINCE WE'RE IMMOBILIZED....
THOUGH THE MAZONE'S FIGHTERS SEEM TO WORK NORMALLY...
IT'S NOT THAT EASY, TADASHI! THIS PLANET IS REALLY PECULIAR : IT'S NEUTRALIZING OUR SHIP'S ENERGY.
WE MUST FIND A WAY TO LEAVE THIS PLANET QUICKLY...
ANY MOVE WE ATTEMPT THEN MAKES THINGS WORSE... ALL THAT'S LEFT TO DO FOR A MAN WORTHY OF THE NAME IS TO DRINK AND REST WITH A DEEP SLEEP.
YOU SEE, TADASHI, SOMETIMES THERE ARE SITUATIONS WHERE YOU CAN'T DO A THING.
THE ARCADIA SLEEPS TOO...

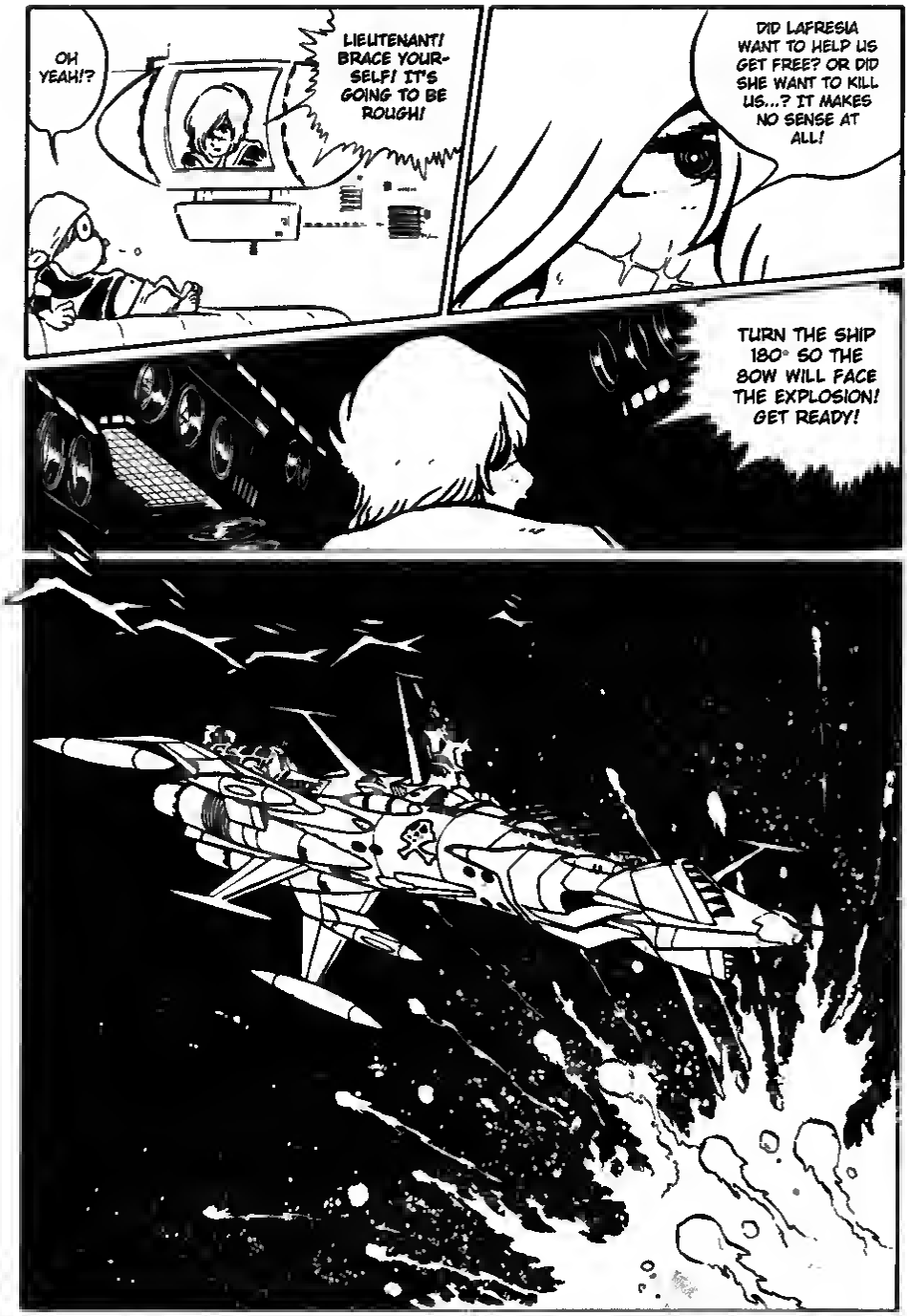
NO, THE ARCADIA ISN'T ASLEEP, HARLOCK...
!!

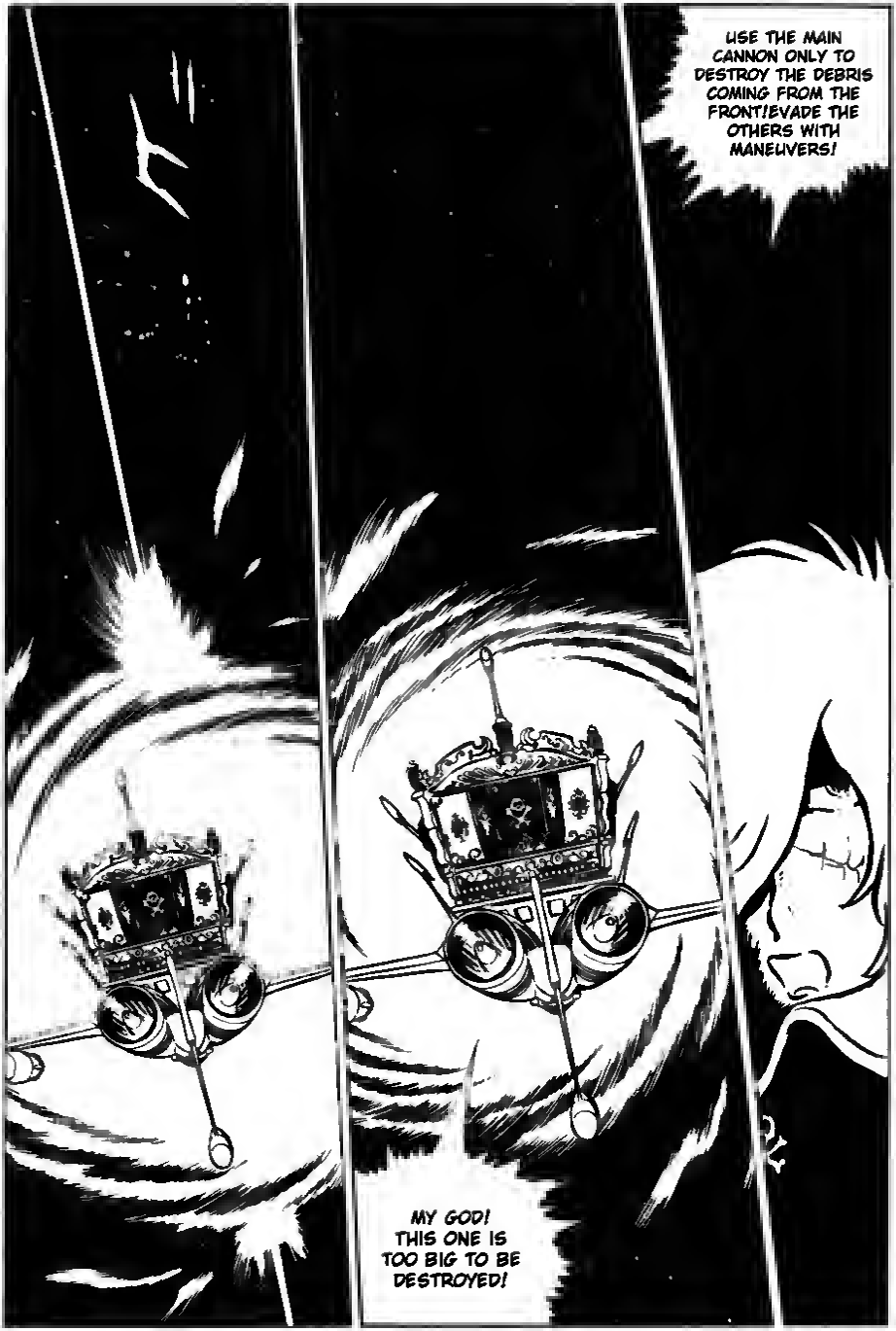




THE ARCADIA STARTED UP... BY ITSELF...
A MESSAGE FOR YOU, CAPTAIN. FROM THE MAIN COMPUTER...
"WE MUST FLEE WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME! YOUR TURN NOW!" AH AH! NOW THAT'S WELL SAID!
IT'S THANKS TO THOSE BURST OF POSITIVE ENERGY THAT THE ENERGY ABSORPTION SYSTEM OF THE PLANET WAS SATURATED... AND THE ARCADIA COULD TAKE OFF!
IS IT BLIND CHANCE? OR DID THE MAZONE DO IT ON PURPOSE?
WHATEVER! NO NEED TO LINGER HERE ANY LONGER! MAXIMUM OPENING OF THE ENGINES! FULL POWER UNTIL WE LEAVE THE GRAVITATIONAL FIELD OF THIS PLANET!
ENGINES FUNCTIONING NORMALLY...
CONSISTENT ACCELERATION.
ASCENT ANGLE : 45°.




OH YEAH!?
LIEUTENANT! BRACE YOURSELF! IT'S GOING TO BE ROUGH!
DID LAFRESIA WANT TO HELP US GET FREE? OR DID SHE WANT TO KILL US...? IT MAKES NO SENSE AT ALL!
TURN THE SHIP 180° SO THE BOW WILL FACE THE EXPLOSION! GET READY!

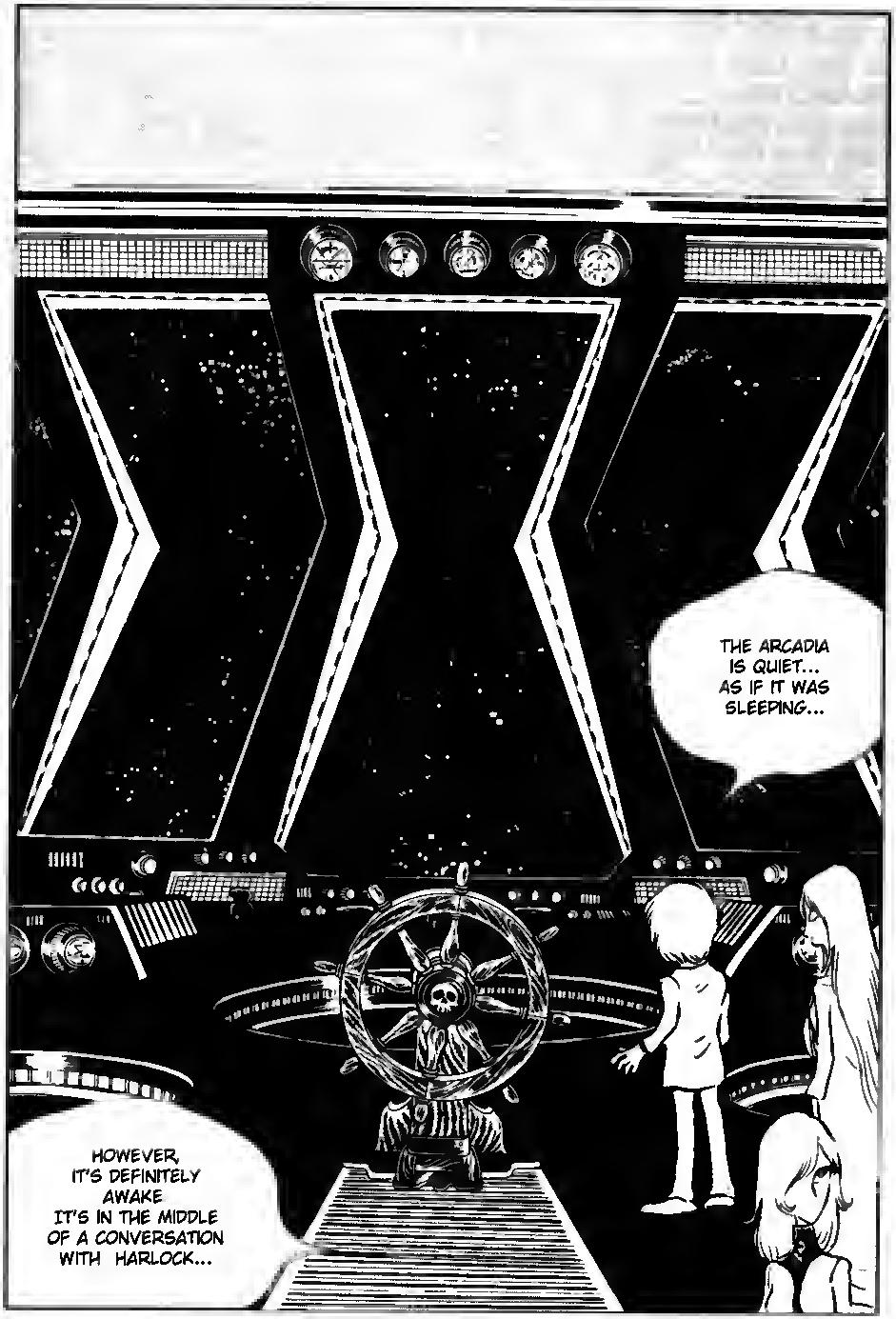

USE THE MAIN CANNON ONLY TO DESTROY THE DEBRIS COMING FROM THE FRONT! EVADE THE OTHERS WITH MANEUVERS!
MY GOD! THIS ONE IS TOO BIG TO BE DESTROYED!

WHERE DID THIS DEFLAGRATOR RAY COME FROM?
I CAN'T DETERMINE WHERE. BUT IT WASN'T A MAZONE SHOT : IT HAD FAR MORE POWER
THIS RAY SAVED US! WHO WOULD BE HELPING US? I DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD ALLIES IN THIS OCEAN OF STARS!

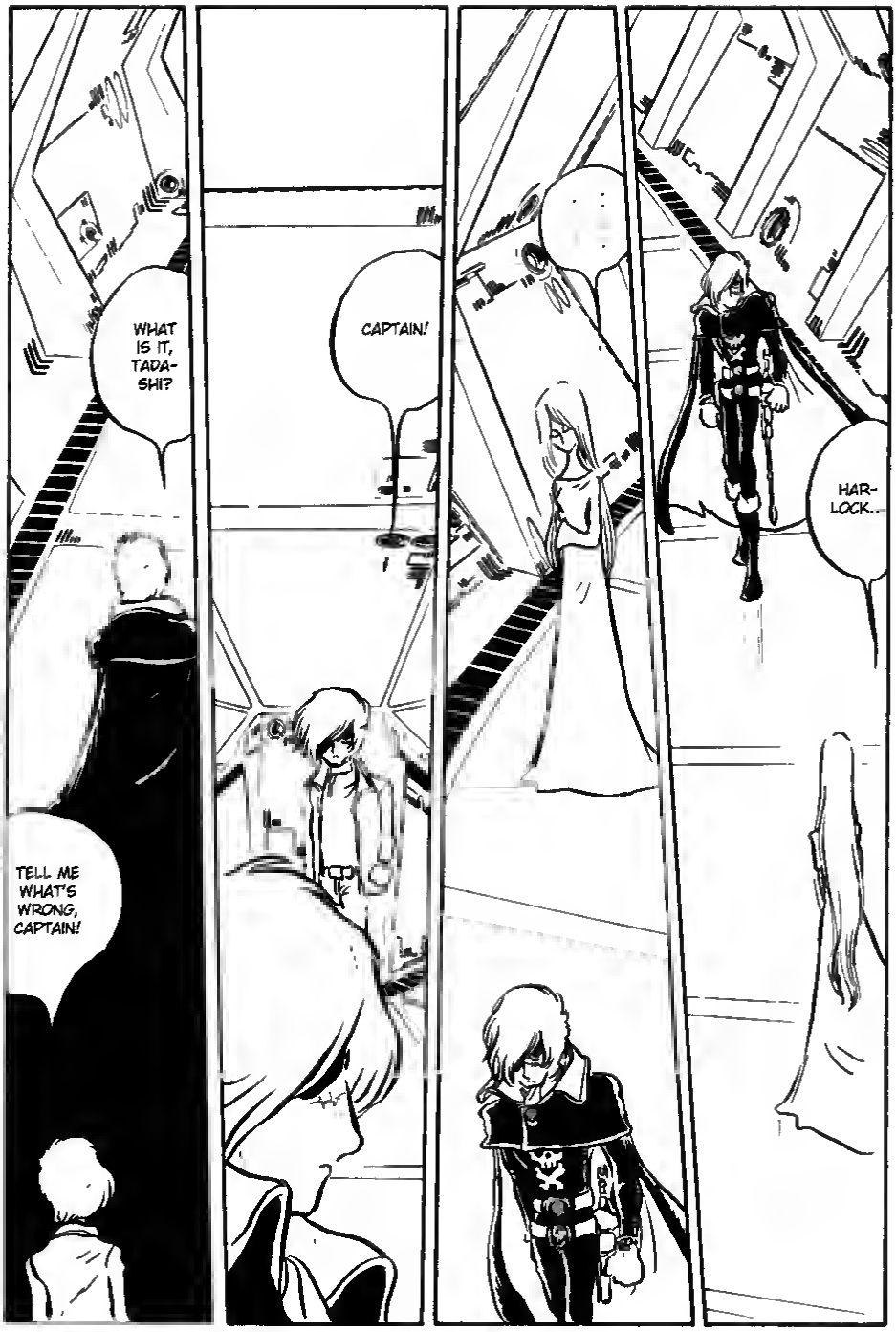
WELL... SO BE IT...
WHAT? THE ARCADIA MANAGED TO GET OFF OF THE "LETHAL SHADOW" BECAUSE OF AN EXTERNAL INTERVENTION?

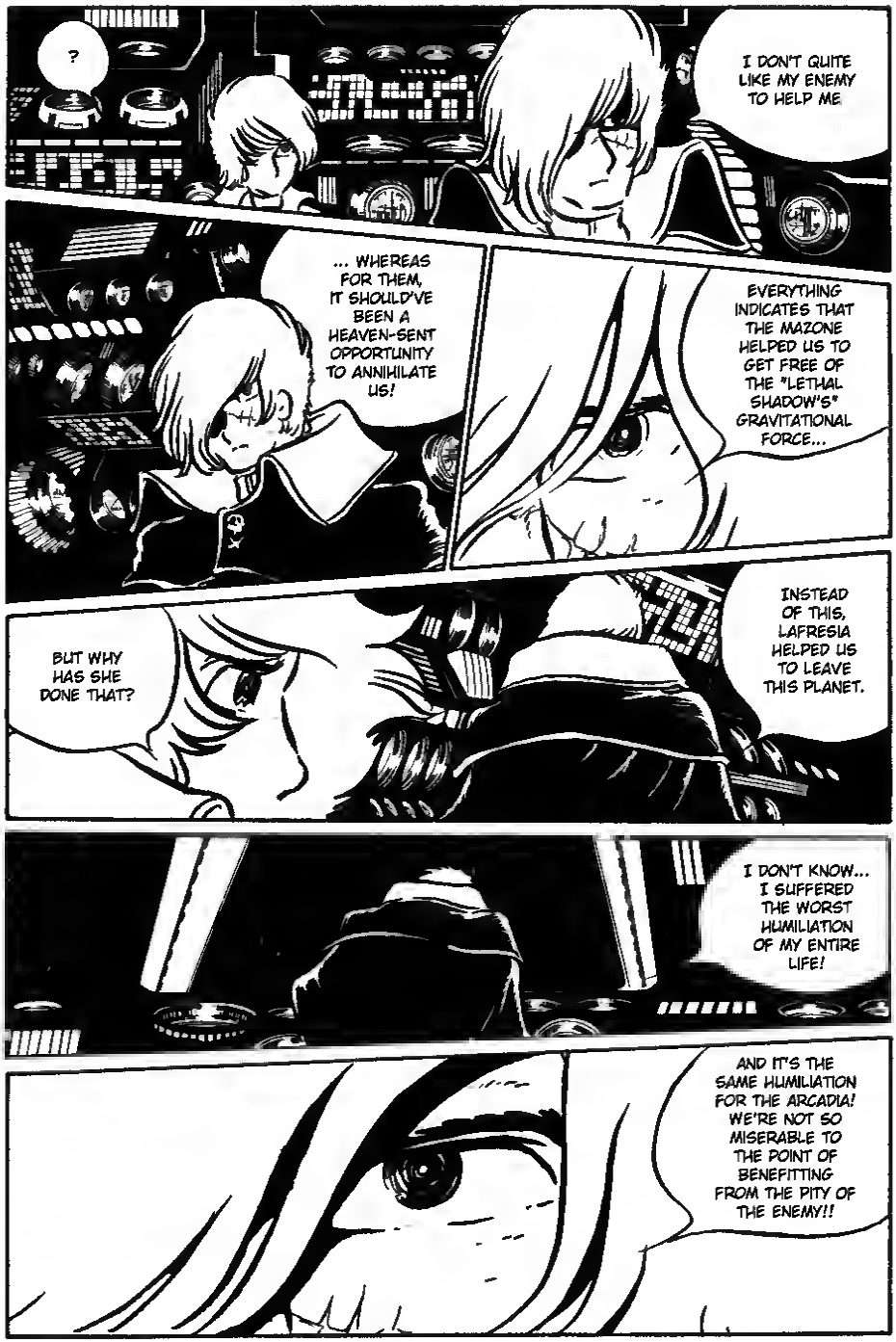
I SEE... THEN WE'RE OF LIKE MIND...

HE'S IN THE MAIN COMPUTER'S ROOM, TALKING WITH THE ARCADIA.
WHAT'S THE CAPTAIN DOING?
YES! HE'S VERY CONCERNED...
IS SOMETHING WORRYING HIM?
I KNOW THAT WELL...
WHEN THERE'S AN IMPORTANT ISSUE, HARLOCK ALWAYS GOES TO THIS ROOM TO CONSULT THE COMPUTER...
IT MUST BE DEEP IN THOUGHTS TOO...
THE ARCADIA IS STRANGELY CALM SINCE EARLIER...

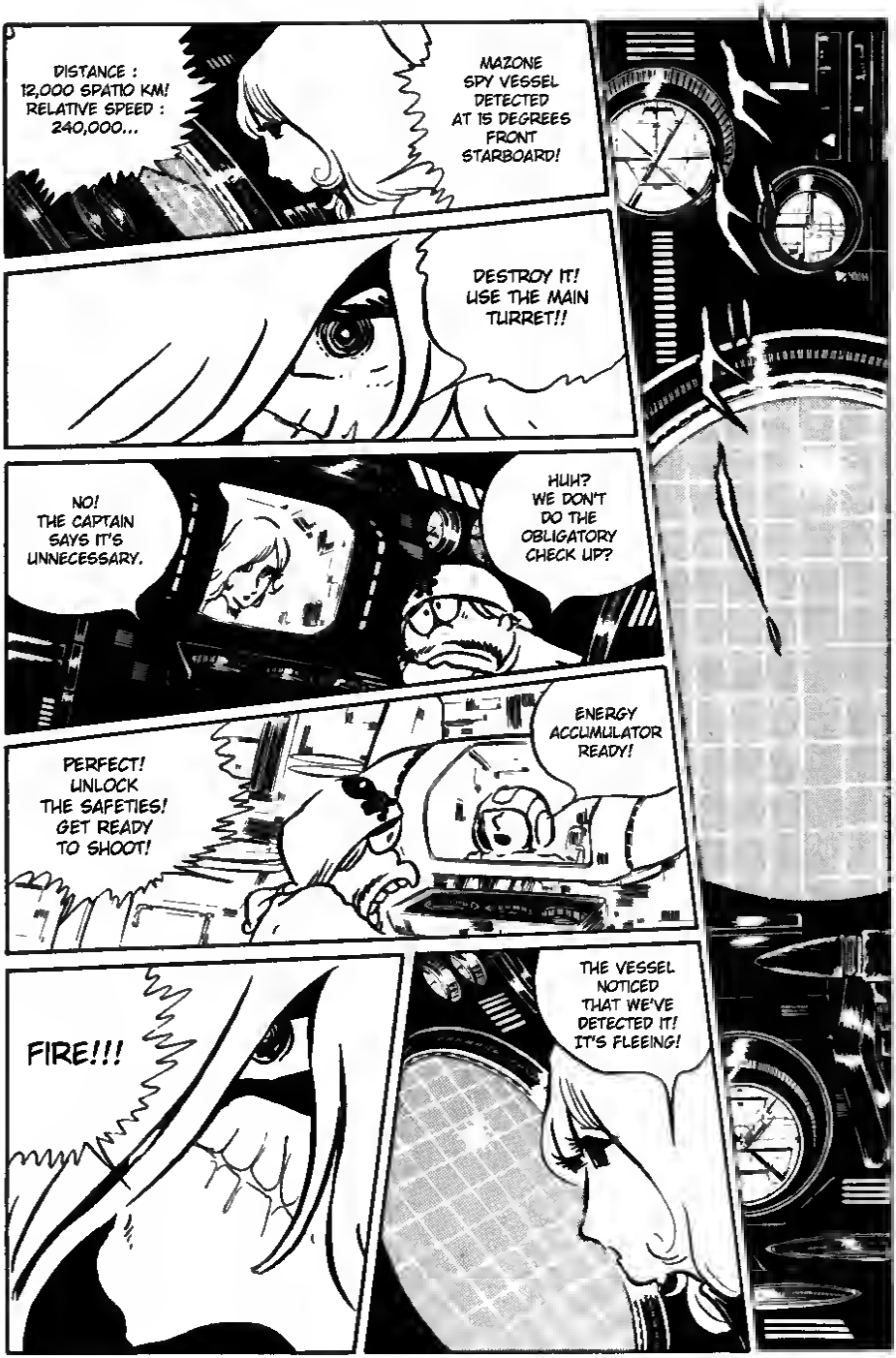

THE ARCADIA IS QUIET... AS IF IT WAS SLEEPING...
HOWEVER, IT'S DEFINITELY AWAKE IT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF A CONVERSATION WITH HARLOCK...

THEIR DISCUSSION MUST BE REALLY IMPORTANT.
WHAT CAN PREOCCUPY THEM THAT MUCH?
HARLOCK AND THE ARCADIA ARE DISCUSSING THIS MATTER... I KNOW IT...
THE WAY WE MANAGED TO LEAVE THE "DEATH SHADOW" WAS QUITE ABNORMAL.

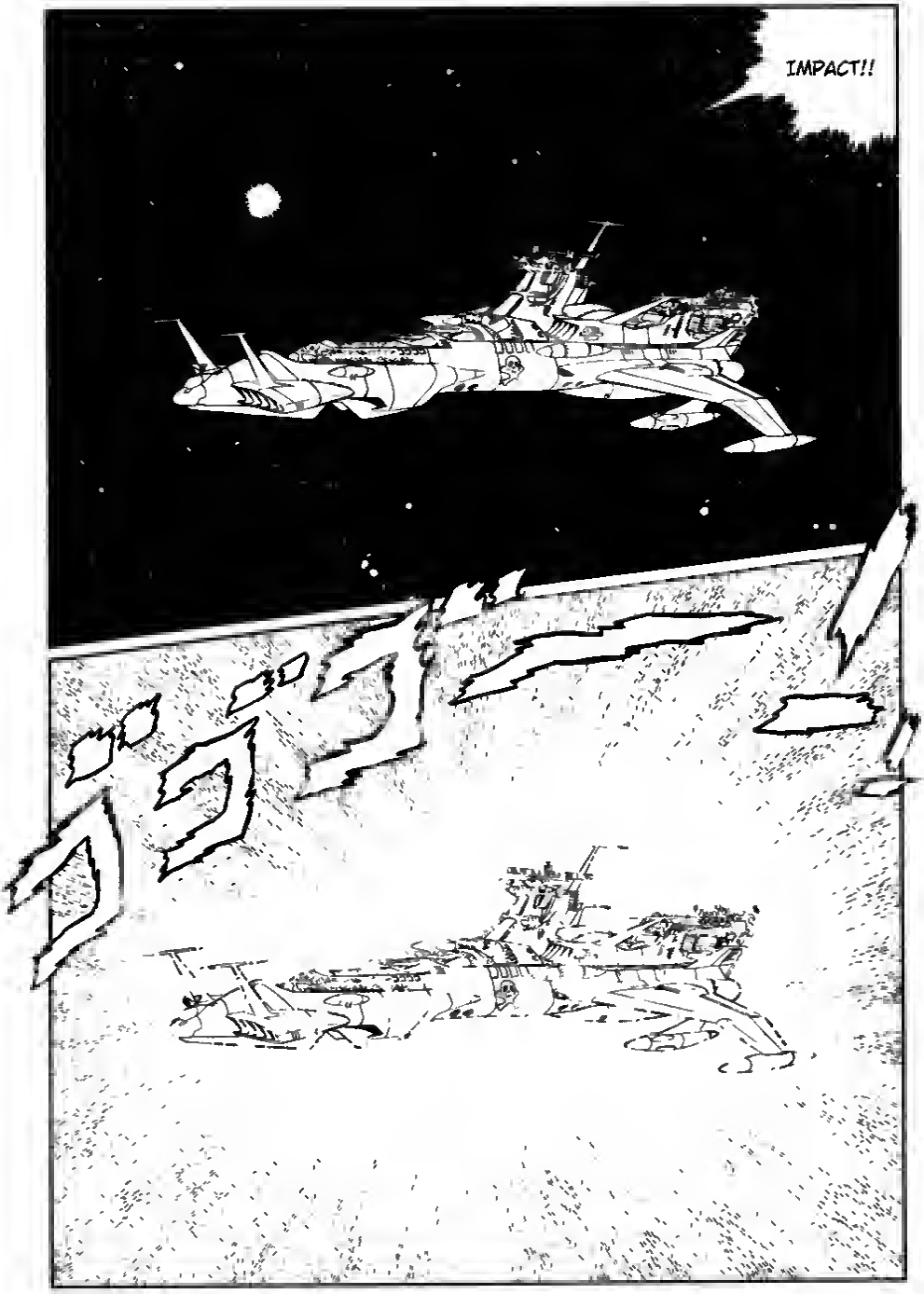

WHAT IS IT, TADA-SHI?
TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG, CAPTAIN!
CAPTAIN!
HAR-LOCK...


?
I DON'T QUITE LIKE MY ENEMY TO HELP ME
... WHEREAS FOR THEM, IT SHOULD'VE BEEN A HEAVEN-SENT OPPORTUNITY TO ANNIHILATE US!
EVERYTHING INDICATES THAT THE MAZONE HELPED US TO GET FREE OF THE "LETHAL SHADOW'S" GRAVITATIONAL FORCE...
BUT WHY HAS SHE DONE THAT?
INSTEAD OF THIS, LAFRESIA HELPED US TO LEAVE THIS PLANET.
I DON'T KNOW... I SUFFERED THE WORST HUMILIATION OF MY ENTIRE LIFE!
AND IT'S THE SAME HUMILIATION FOR THE ARCADIA! WE'RE NOT SO MISERABLE TO THE POINT OF BENEFITTING FROM THE PITY OF THE ENEMY!!

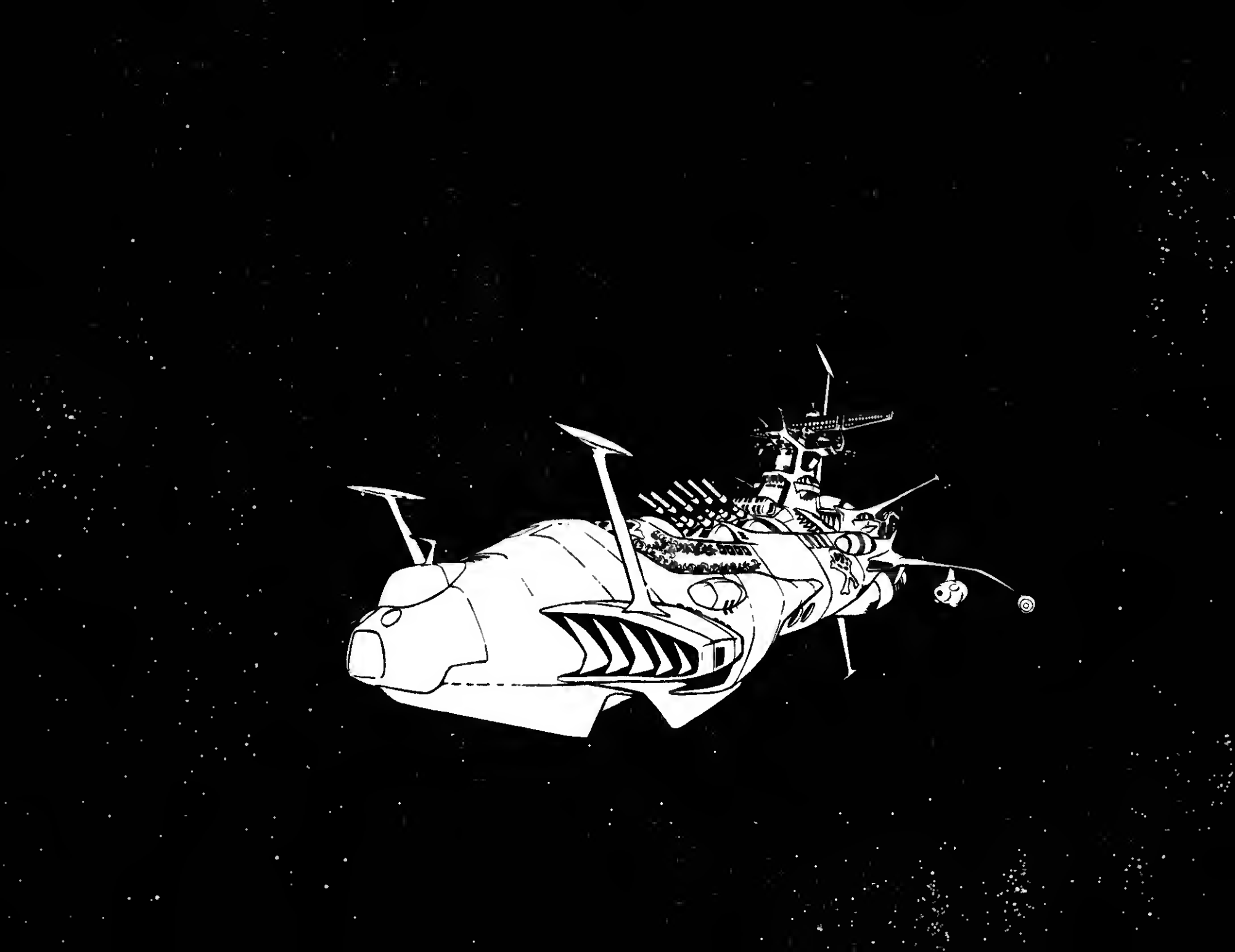
!!
WOH OH!
HMM .. THE ARCADIA IS ANGRY TOO!
AHLALALALA!

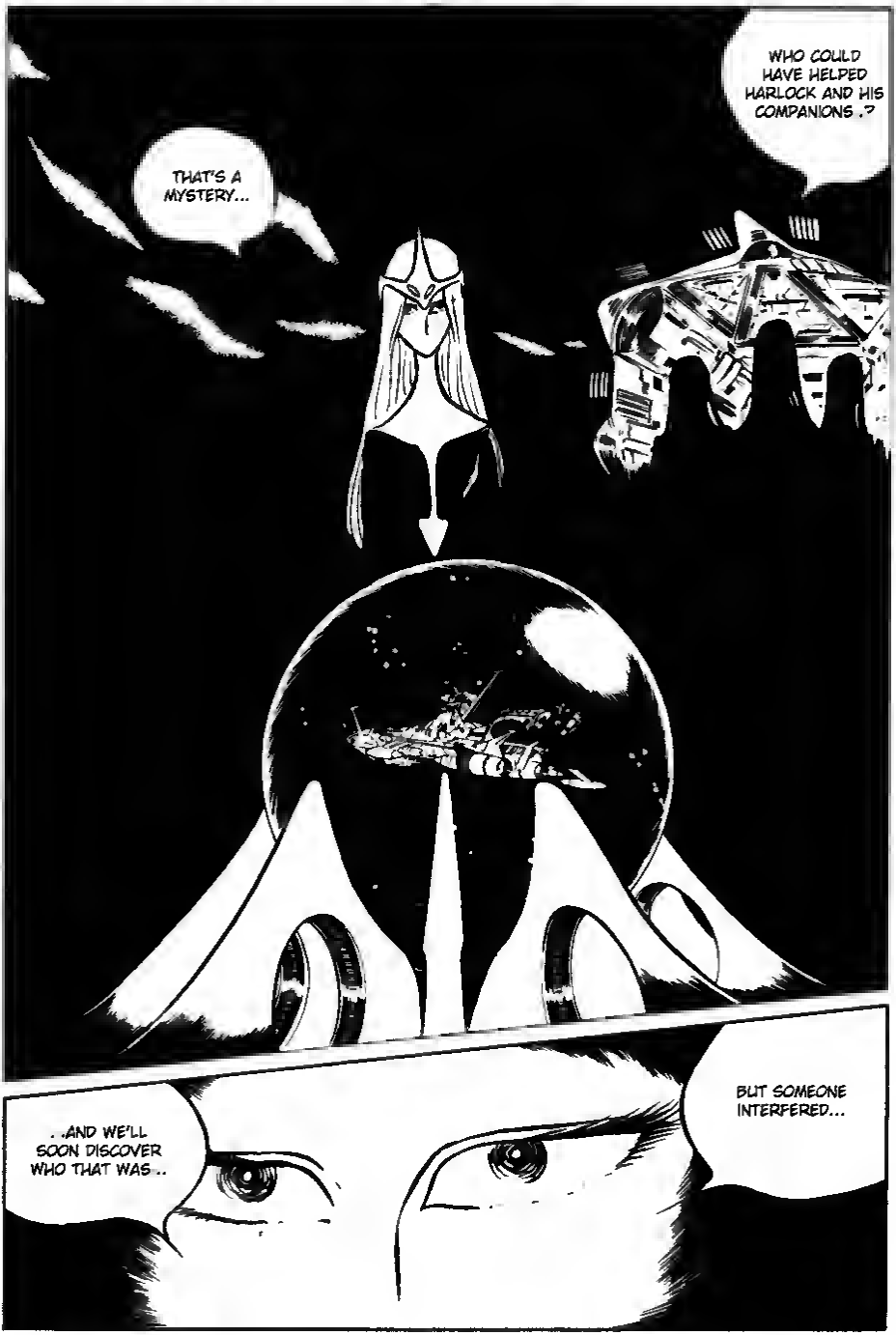

DISTANCE : 12,000 SPATIO KM! RELATIVE SPEED : 240,000...
MAZONE SPY VESSEL DETECTED AT 15 DEGREES FRONT STARBOARD!
DESTROY IT! USE THE MAIN TURRET!!
NO! THE CAPTAIN SAYS IT'S UNNECESSARY.
HUH? WE DON'T DO THE OBLIGATORY CHECK UP?
ENERGY ACCUMULATOR READY!
PERFECT! UNLOCK THE SAFETIES! GET READY TO SHOOT!
FIRE!!!
THE VESSEL NOTICED THAT WE'VE DETECTED IT! IT'S FLEEING!

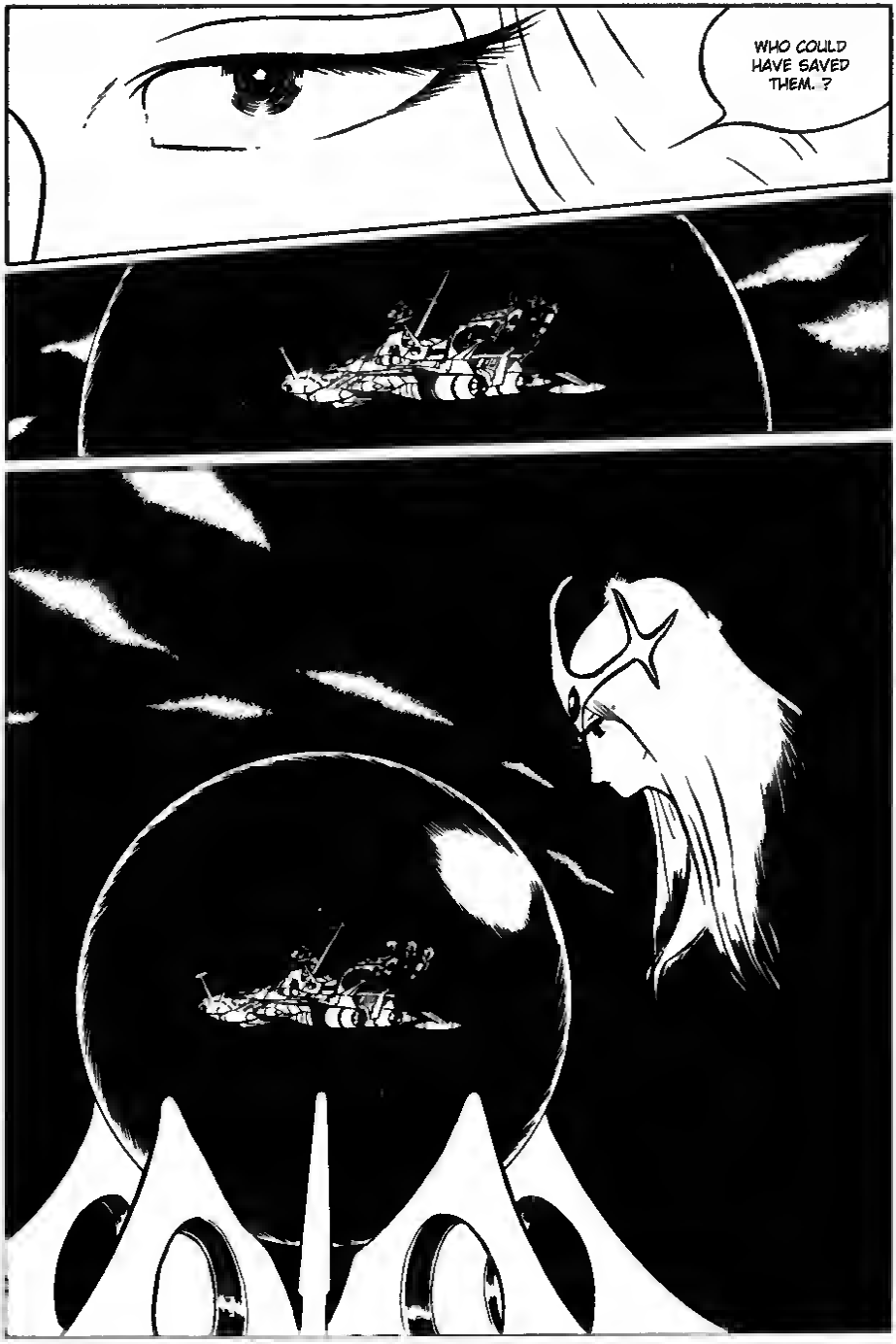
BALLISTIC SHOT ALIGNED WITH THE VESSEL'S TRAJECTORY! IMPACT IN 12 SECONDS!!


IMPACT!!

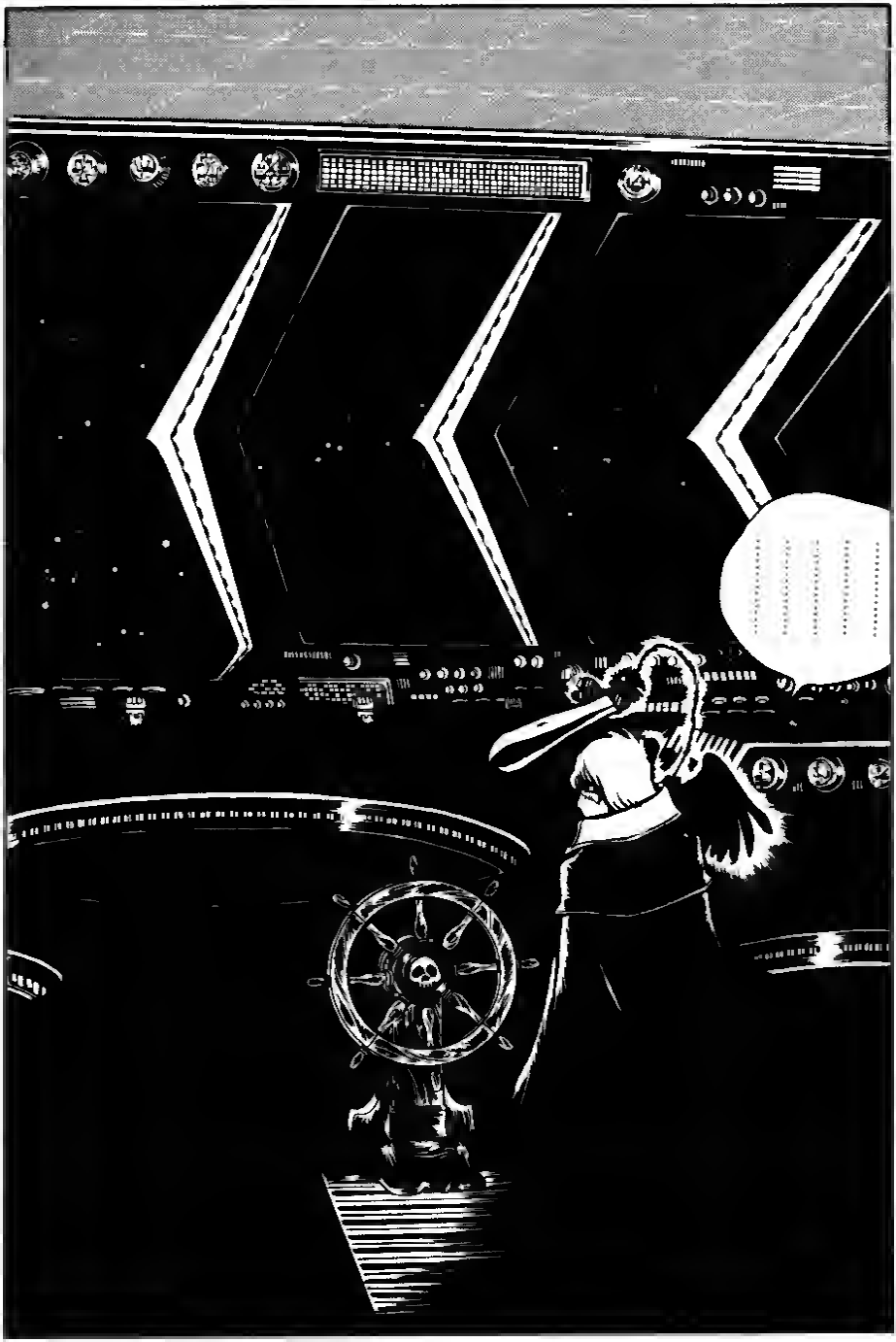
IF LAFRESIA COUNTED ON BUYING OUR SUBMISSION BY SAVING US, SHE'S MADE A HUGE MISTAKE! THE DAY WILL COME WHEN SHE'LL REGRET NOT HAVING FINISHED US OFF! I HATE BEING UNDERESTIMATED!!

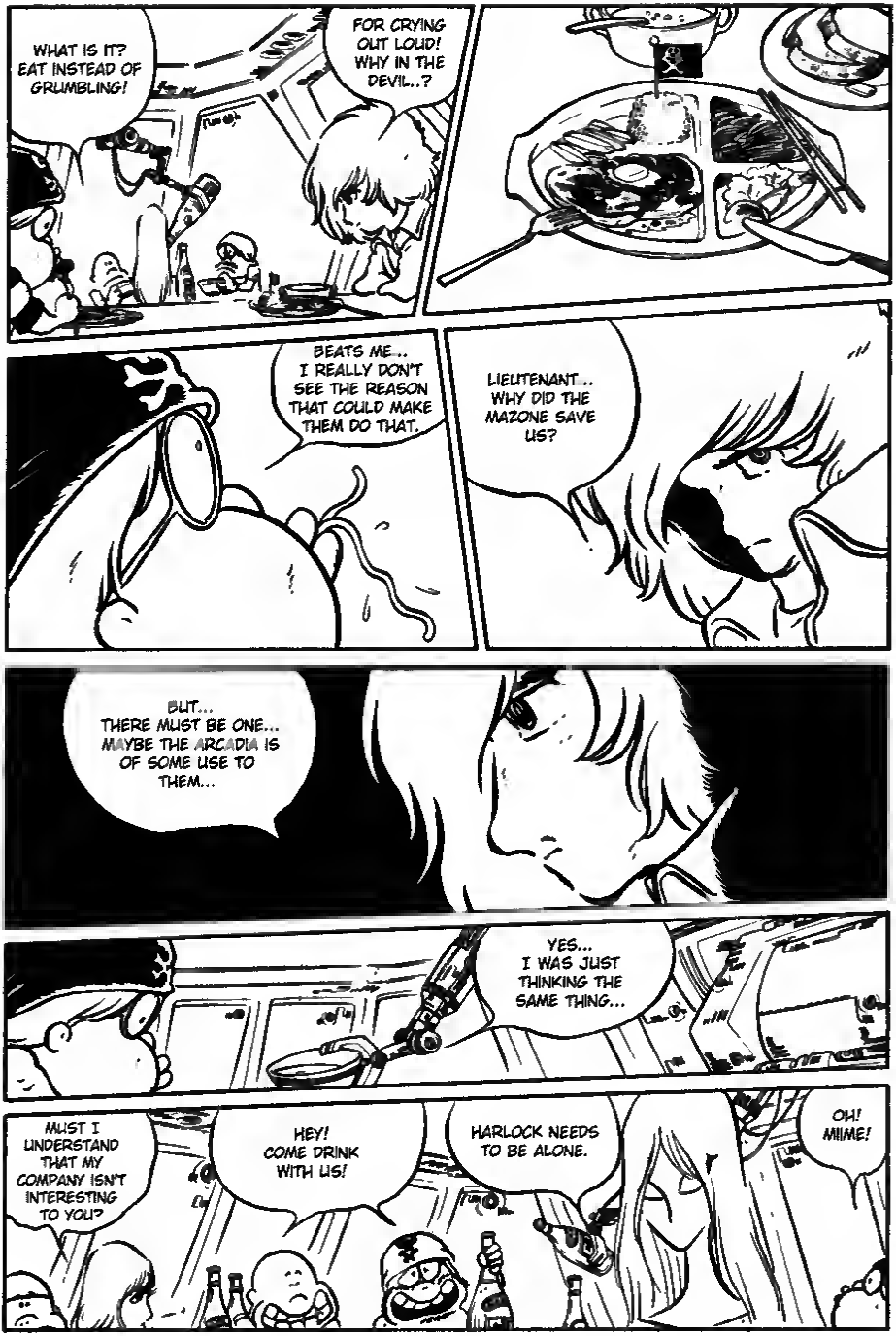


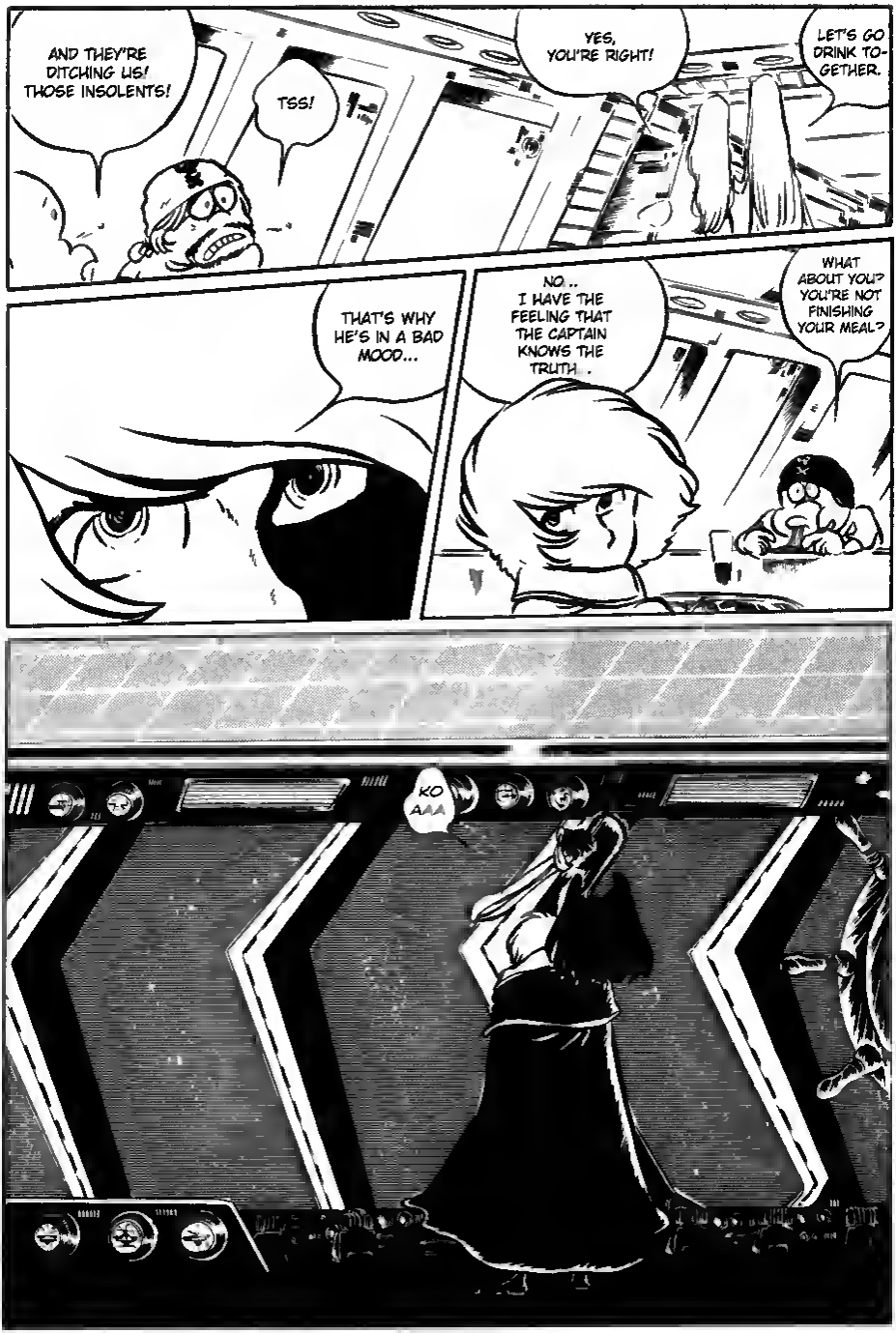

WHO COULD HAVE HELPED HARLOCK AND HIS COMPANIONS .?
THAT'S A MYSTERY...
BUT SOMEONE INTERFERED...
..AND WE'LL SOON DISCOVER WHO THAT WAS..


WHO COULD HAVE SAVED THEM. ?

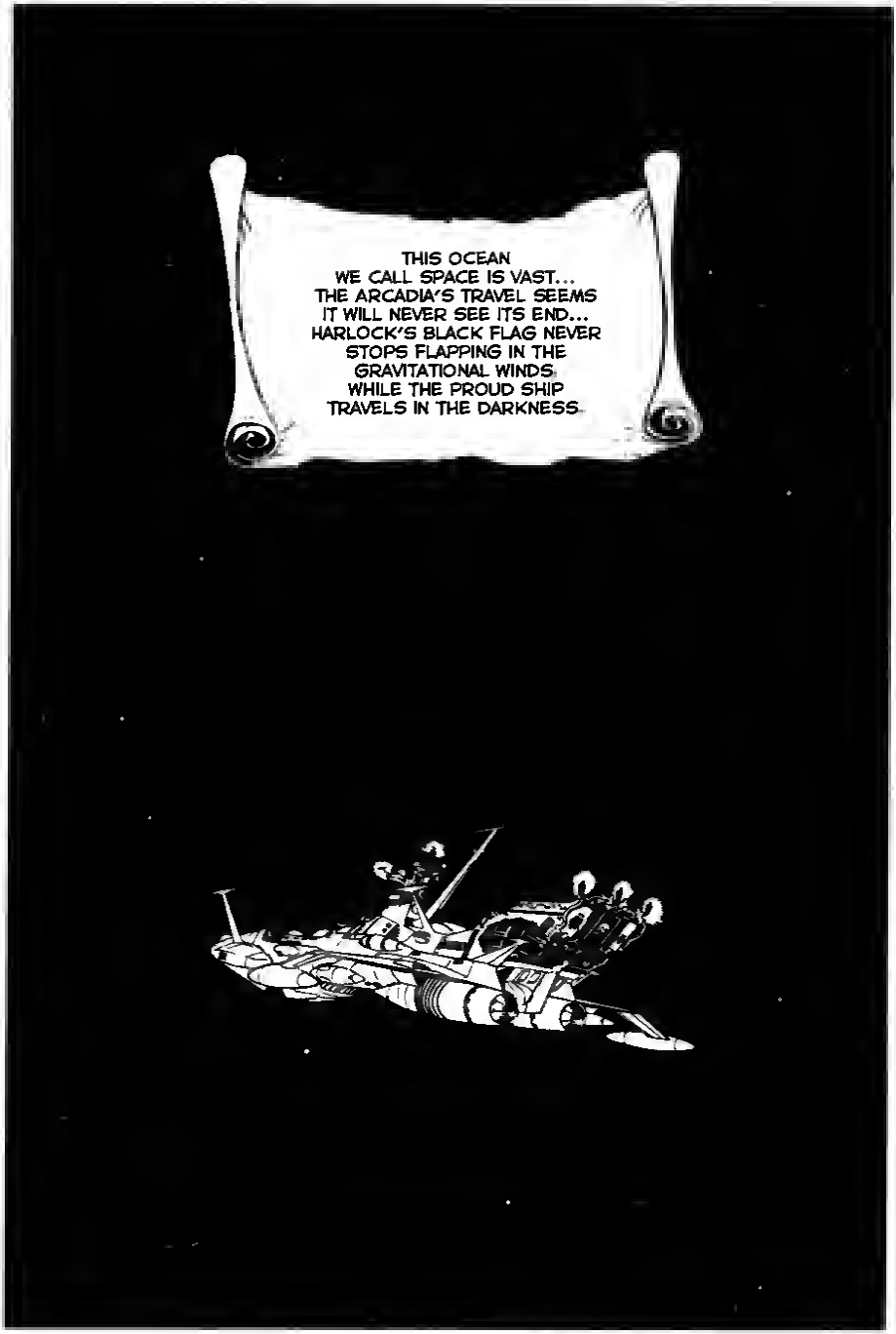
THE INFINITE EXPANSE OF SPACE IS THE OCEAN I TRAVEL ON, A PLACE THAT NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME. THE SONGS I LOVE ARE THOSE OF EARTH. THEY REMIND ME OF MY HOME WORLD WHICH I CAN'T COMPLETELY DISOWN.
YOU, MY FRIEND, YOU KNEW WELL THAT THIS PLANET WOULD HAVE NO TOMORROW, BUT YOU FOUGHT TO PROTECT IT. IT KILLED YOU, AND ME, I'M STILL ALIVE.
I BELONG TO THE DARKNESS OF THE UNIVERSE. FOR ME THEY ARE THE FIELD OF AN ENDLESS BATTLE. IT'S UNDER THE BLACK FLAG, MY STANDARD, THAT I'LL DIE.
YOU, MY FRIEND, HAVE NEVER STOPPED LOVING EARTH, EVEN WHEN YOU UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WAS NO HOPE ANYMORE. ME NEITHER, I WON'T ABANDON IT.




WHAT IS IT? EAT INSTEAD OF GRUMBLING!
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD! WHY IN THE DEVIL..?
BEATS ME.. I REALLY DON'T SEE THE REASON THAT COULD MAKE THEM DO THAT.
LIEUTENANT.. WHY DID THE MAZONE SAVE US?
BUT... THERE MUST BE ONE... MAYBE THE ARCADIA IS OF SOME USE TO THEM...
YES... I WAS JUST THINKING THE SAME THING...
MUST I UNDERSTAND THAT MY COMPANY ISN'T INTERESTING TO YOU?
HEY! COME DRINK WITH US!
HARLOCK NEEDS TO BE ALONE.
OH! MIME!

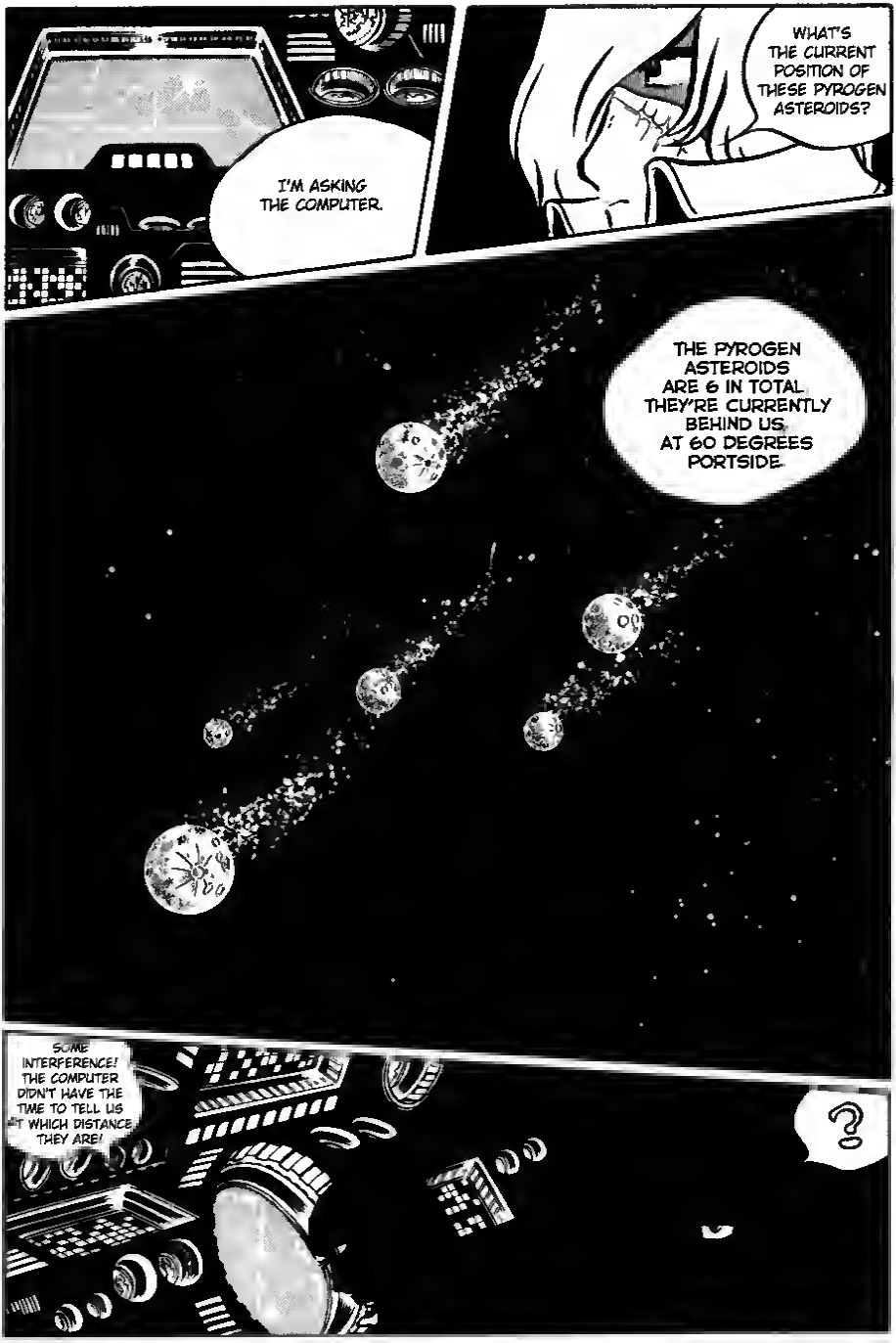

AND THEY'RE DITCHING US! THOSE INSOLENTS!
TSS!
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT!
LET'S GO DRINK TOGETHER.
THAT'S WHY HE'S IN A BAD MOOD...
NO.. I HAVE THE FEELING THAT THE CAPTAIN KNOWS THE TRUTH..
WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU'RE NOT FINISHING YOUR MEAL?
KO AAA

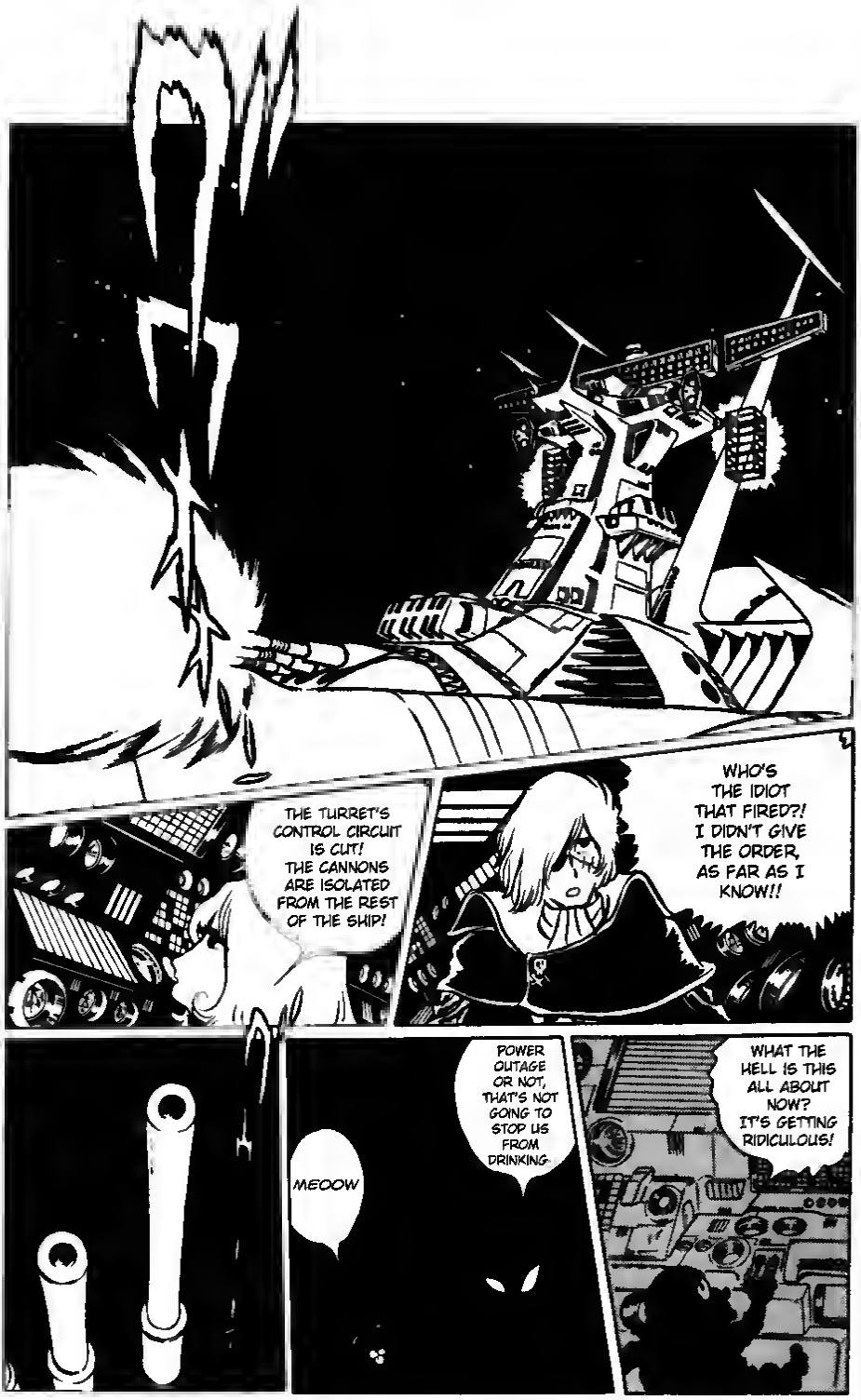
INDEED, EVERYTHING SEEMS REALLY QUIET NOW...
IT'S HEADED FORWARD, LIKE A DAZED MAN WHO WANDERS, HIS HEAD EMPTY...
THE ARCADIA SEEMS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT THAN THE OTHER DAYS...
BUT THE TIME WILL COME WHEN I'LL NEED TO FACE HARLOCK IN A DUEL TO DEATH...
AND THIS TIME IS NEARLY HERE... I FEEL IT...

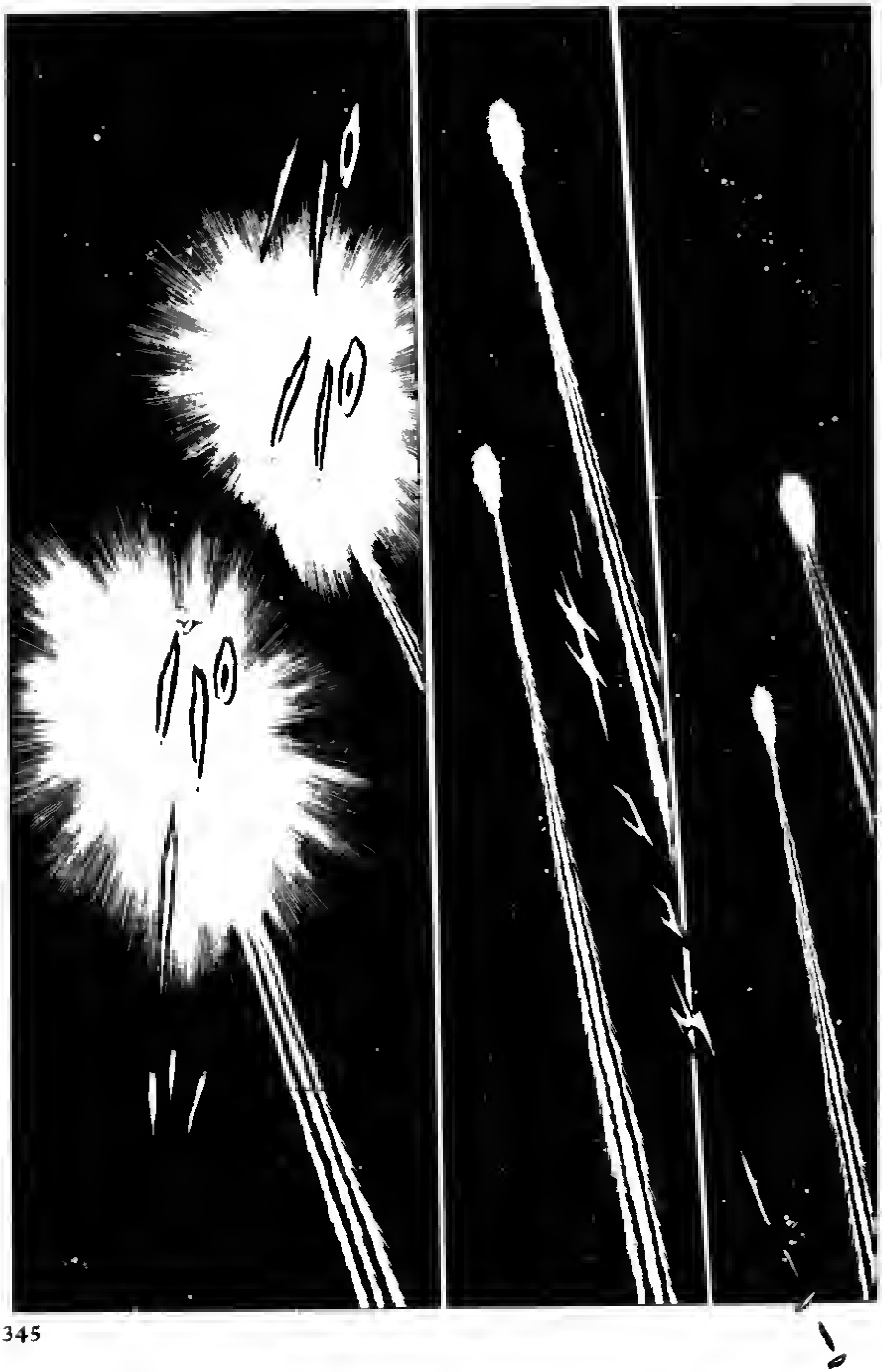

THIS OCEAN
WE CALL SPACE IS VAST...
THE ARCADIA'S TRAVEL SEEMS
IT WILL NEVER SEE ITS END...
HARLOCK'S BLACK FLAG NEVER
STOPS FLAPPING IN THE
GRAVITATIONAL WINDS
WHILE THE PROUD SHIP
TRAVELS IN THE DARKNESS

IT HAS DETECTED TRACES OF A LARGE SIZE OBJECT ON OUR CURRENT POSITION.
THE DIMENSIONAL RADAR IS EMITTING A SIGNAL...
HOW FAR BACK DO THEY GO?
18 HOURS.
THE THERMAL SENSORS ARE REACTING TOO. BUT THEY DETECT THREE TRACES, NOT JUST ONE.
18 HOURS... THAT'S NOT MUCH.
THIS DIMENSIONAL RADAR SURE IS CONVENIENT! IT EVEN ALLOWS US TO VISUALIZE FACTS THAT HAVE OCCURED SEVERAL HOURS AGO!
THE TRACES ARE FRESH, IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM
IS IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE A VISUAL PROJECTION?
I'M LAUCHING THE PRO-JECTION!
AH NO! JUST WHEN I'M DOING A DELICATE ASSEMBLY!
I'M CONNECTING THE RADAR TO THE MAIN COMPUTER. SORRY, I MUST REDUCE THE ENERGY CONSUMPTION ABOARD THE ARCADIA.
YOU KNOW, DR ZERO, THE DIMENSIONAL RADAR CAN'T GO BACK FURTHER THAN 48 HOURS. THOUGH IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL...

WHAT IS THIS?! AN ASTEROID BOMBING?
THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE REMOTELY CONTROLLED. THEIR CORES PRESENT A VERY HIGH TEMPERATURE AND THE PRESSURE THERE IS EXTREMELY HIGH. THEY MUST BE SMALL SUNS...

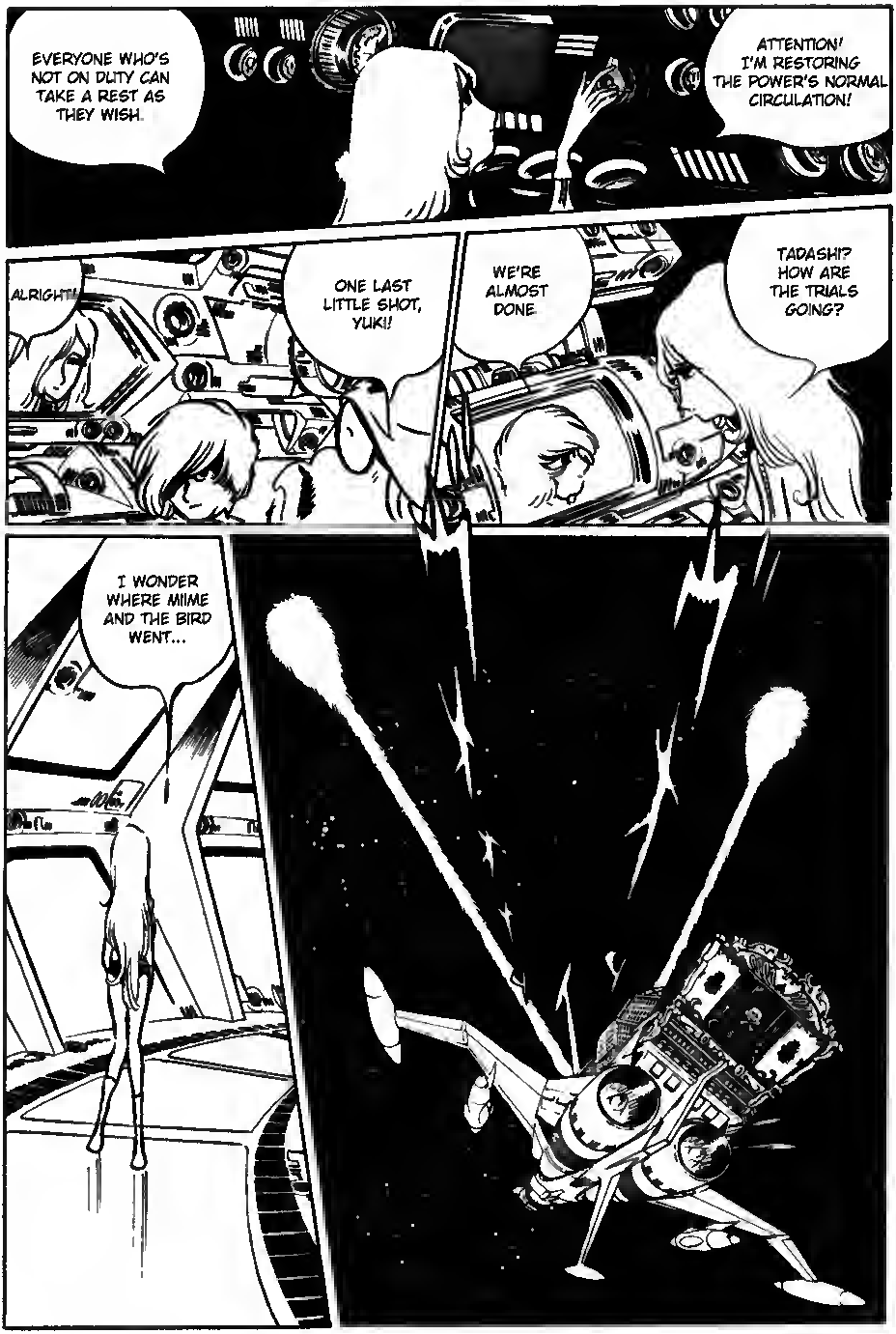

I'M ASKING THE COMPUTER.
WHAT'S THE CURRENT POSITION OF THESE PYROGEN ASTEROIDS?
THE PYROGEN ASTEROIDS ARE 6 IN TOTAL THEY'RE CURRENTLY BEHIND US AT 60 DEGREES PORTSIDE
SOME INTERFERENCE! THE COMPUTER DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME TO TELL US AT WHICH DISTANCE THEY ARE!
?

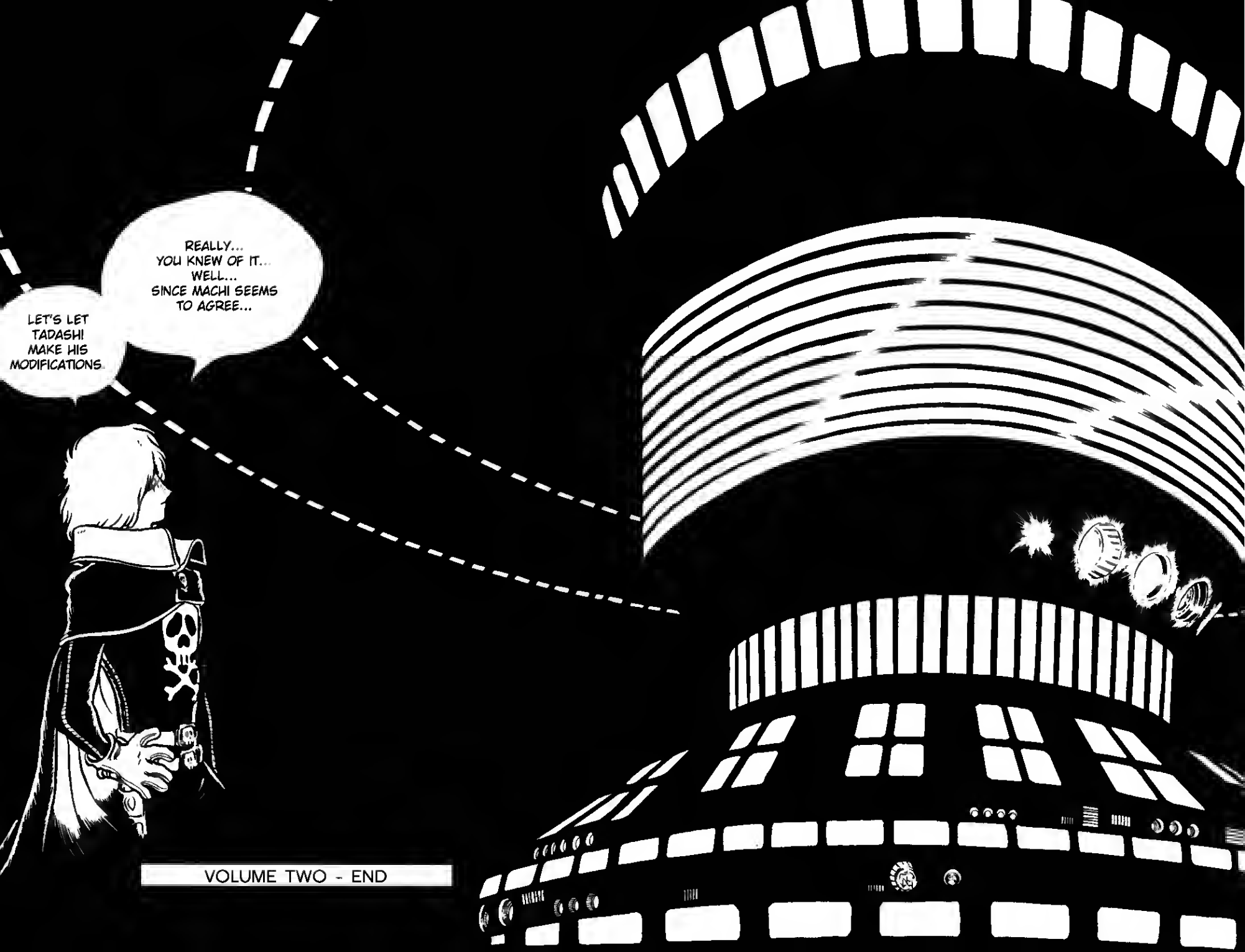

THE TURRET'S CONTROL CIRCUIT IS CUT! THE CANNONS ARE ISOLATED FROM THE REST OF THE SHIP!
WHO'S THE IDIOT THAT FIRED?! I DIDN'T GIVE THE ORDER, AS FAR AS I KNOW!!
MEOOW
POWER OUTAGE OR NOT, THAT'S NOT GOING TO STOP US FROM DRINKING
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS ALL ABOUT NOW? IT'S GETTING RIDICULOUS!



WHO'S THE IMBECILE TOYING WITH THE CANNONS?!
FIREWORKS! OOH, NICE ONE!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, HAVING FUN WHILE WE'RE FOCUSING ALL THE SHIP'S ENERGY ON THE MAIN COMPUTER?!
TADASHI?! IT'S YOU?!
YES? WHAT IS IT CAPTAIN?
I THOUGHT THAT TO FIGHT THE MAZONE'S FAST FIGHTERS, IT WOULD BE BETTER TO REINFORCE THE TURRETS' PILOTING BOX AND INCREASE THEIR MOBILITY.
IT'S JUST THAT TADASHI HAD AN INTERESTING ENHANCEMENT PROPOSAL CONCERNING THE CANNONS' FIRING SYSTEM!
SORRY, CAPTAIN! I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF ISOLATING THE POWER CIRCUITS OF THE TURRETS.
NO, NO, IT'S PERFECT! CONTINUE!
DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?
ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, BY SLOWING DOWN THE OPTICAL CANALS' ROTATION RYTHM BY ONE HUNDREDTH PER CENTIMETER, WE SHOULD OBTAIN A GREATER SHOT RANGE.

APPARENTLY, HE AND MACHI, OUR MECHANIC, HAVE BEEN STUDYING THIS PROBLEM FOR A LONG TIME ALREADY.
NOW TADASHI BEGINS TO SERIOUSLY THINK HARD!
WE'LL GET BACK TO THIS LATER, WHEN TADASHI IS DONE WITH HIS TRIALS
WHAT DO YOU DECIDE? SHOULD I CONTINUE THE SEARCH CONCERNING THE POSITION OF THIS GROUP OF MINI-SUNS AND ITS DESTINATION?
IT'S CALLING FOR ME!!!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, CAPTAIN?
IN THE MAIN COMPUTER'S ROOM.


EVERYONE WHO'S NOT ON DUTY CAN TAKE A REST AS THEY WISH.
ATTENTION! I'M RESTORING THE POWER'S NORMAL CIRCULATION!
ALRIGHT!
ONE LAST LITTLE SHOT, YUKI!
WE'RE ALMOST DONE.
TADASHI? HOW ARE THE TRIALS GOING?
I WONDER WHERE MIME AND THE BIRD WENT...


REALLY...
YOU KNEW OF IT...
WELL...
SINCE MACHI SEEMS
TO AGREE...
LET'S LET
TADASHI
MAKE HIS
MODIFICATIONS.
VOLUME TWO - END

Herlock
SPACE PIRATE CAPTAIN
宇宙海賊キャプテン
ハーロック

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GATE_WAITINGROOM

OFFTOPIC

EXAME

CERBERUS

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